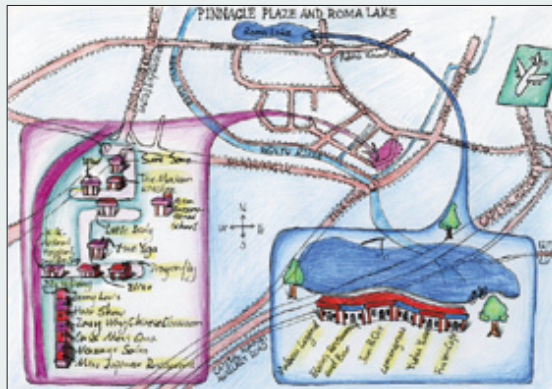




Mall's well with young artists

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Shunyi plaza worth the trek

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Tour winds down at Wall



A team of over 70 classic Citroen autos, most of which were produced in the 1960s and 70s ended its cross-continent tour at Juyongguan Pass of the Great Wall, Wednesday. The team started their tour from Paris, France, on July 14 and drove through Italy, Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan as many as 18,000 kilometers.

CFP Photo

Pet mercy killer faces criticism

By Chu Meng

For many people, retirement means a time to relax. For Liu Xiaorong, 57, a Luoyang, Henan Province, woman, it was the start of a new career: hospice for dogs. Over the last 14 years, she has euthanized nearly 10,000 adopted strays.

Liu was laid off in 1994 and has devoted herself to adopting dogs ever since. Always with ten to 300 dogs accompanying her, she's spent all her money to buy them food, medicine and needles for lethal injection.

The dogs weren't rescued from the streets or from Luoyang restaurants - they were dropped at her doorstep by community members discarding their used pets.

"She is a kind-hearted woman," Fan Zongling, Liu's house assistant, said. He witnessed over 200 euthanizations during his four-month stay with Liu. "[She] told me that she had euthanized nearly ten thousand dogs. Her ex-assistant surnamed Zhang also said she witnessed over 1,000 lethal injections during her four years working for Liu."

"I can still clearly remember the first time I saw her administer an injection," Fan said. He said Liu bound the dog's legs to her couch with ropes. It struggled and barked miserably. Liu first administered an anesthetic injection, and ten minutes later when it was asleep, she gave it the lethal injection.

"She held the dog tightly, letting it pass away in her arms. After that, she cried," Fan said.

Facing public pressure and criticism, Liu shut herself away and refused to issue any public comment about her euthanasia work. Last weekend, she told the *Beijing News*, "My parents divorced when I was very young. I was never lucky in love. I don't want these abandoned dogs to suffer the kind of life I had. To euthanize them is the most merciful thing they can find in this world."

"I doubt she has really euthanized 10,000 dogs. If she has, she did it without any right. To kill them is even worse than to abuse them," Wu Tianyu, president of the Animal Rescue Association of Haidian District, Beijing, said.



Eight-year-old girl's cross-country marathon causes controversy

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好运北京
GOOD LUCK BEIJING

Pre-Games sports special
The 'Good Luck Beijing' series

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Man uses old, blind beggar for profit

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American donates private war collection

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Olympic athletes' hospital starts expansion project

By Jiang Xubo

The China-Japan Friendship Hospital (CJFH), the capital's appointed hospital for the Olympic athletes, will start its expansion project late next month to increase capacity and provide better service.

The project, which is expected to be finished next May, will add a third floor to the current international medical department building.

Thirty-one beds will be available during the Games, with another 31 beds prepared for emergency cases. The recon-

structed wards will be no smaller than 25 square meters. Each ward will be suitable for emergency medical services.

Two of the wards, with doors, toilets and extra large beds, will be prepared for tall athletes. Each of the 2.5-meter-long beds, which were ordered from the US and will arrive next month, cost the hospital US\$20,000, Xu Shuo, director of the international medical department, said.

Patients can access the Internet in all wards, and watch TV and read newspapers. The hospital will provide meals to suit a

range of tastes, including Chinese, Western, Japanese and Muslim food. It obtained banned drug lists from the country's General Administration of Sports to avoid including forbidden substances in the food.

The hospital will have a 200-person medical team assembled for the Olympics, including an orthopedist, surgeons and dentists.

"The international medical department can communicate in foreign languages. We already have medical panels to provide services in English and Japanese,

and some staff members, who can speak French and German," Peng Mingqiang, vice chief of the hospital, said.

The international department is separate from the rest of the hospital, and athlete patients will enter the hospital from its east gate – an exclusive passage that will have added security during the Games, Peng said.

CJFH, featuring medical services in foreign languages, was established in 1984. The hospital was assigned as one of the capital's 20 medical institutions for the Games early this year.

BOCOG promises drug-free Olympics

By He Jianwei

The Beijing Olympics will carry out 4,500 doping control tests, the highest number in the history of the Olympics, an official from the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) said Wednesday.

The organizers of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games are striving to ensure a clean Olympics, and the samples collected from July 27 to August 24, 2008 will be analyzed, with tests divided into a pre-Games and a Games-time phase, Chen Zhiyu, an official of the Games Services Department of BOCOG, said.

"We performed 9,400 doping control tests in 2006 in 50 sports events, with a special focus on high-risk events like track and field, swimming, weightlifting, wrestling, cycling, rowing and canoeing," Chen said.

The tests will be conducted with the agreement of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the international sport organizations (IFs) and BOCOG. BOCOG representatives said it will provide first class hardware and software facilities to ensure test quality. All competition venues and Olympic Village clinics will have test stations – 41 in total.

In line with IOC requirements and the practice of previous Olympic Games, BOCOG will invite ten overseas lab specialists and ten specialized volunteers in doping control tests to join the test team of the Games.

The staff of the test laboratory will work in three shifts to conduct uninterrupted tests every day. The results will be released within 24 hours, while positive reactions will be revealed within 48 hours.

Nobel laureates gather for energy conservation

By Chu Meng

Nine Nobel laureates and five world-renowned scientists will gather in Beijing next month to discuss energy conservation and emission reduction, according to a press briefing on Tuesday.

The laureates include Robert Mundell, winner of the 1999 economics prize, Edmund Phelps, winner of the 2004 chemistry prize, Richard Schrock, winner of the 2005 chemistry prize, and Thomas Schelling, winner of the 2005 economics prize.

The group will gather at an international forum on energy and environmental protection being held September 11 to 14, and discuss with Chinese scientists how to save energy, reduce emissions and maintain sustainable development.

Nobel laureates and world-renowned economists are expected to give more than 50 lectures on solar energy and its market development, global warming and reduction in Beijing's greenhouse gases.

Year inflation to exceed target

By Huang Daohen

China's inflation rate is likely to exceed the official 2007 government target of three percent, Su Ning, deputy governor of the central bank, said Wednesday.

"Even if we take into consideration the measures in place to control price hikes, the price increase for this year will probably still be over three percent," Su said at a press conference in the State Council Information Office.

The deputy governor noted that the central bank has been closely monitoring the surge in consumer prices, and will continue to take macroeconomic control measures to keep stabilize prices.

In the first seven months of the year, China's consumer price index (CPI) rose 3.5 percent year-on-year. In July, the inflation rate hit a ten-year single-month level of 5.6 percent since February 1997.

Food price inflation, Su said, accounted for 80 percent of the CPI rise this year. The governor expected that inflation will ease if the government adopts measures to control food price hikes.

This year, the central bank has been pursuing tighter measures amid higher inflation and robust growth. On August 21, the bank raised its benchmark one-year lending rate by 0.18 percent to 7.02 points.

That was the fourth time this year and the sixth time since April 2006 that the Chinese central bank raised interest rates.

The central bank also upped the reserve ratio requirement in six instances this year to rein in excessive credit growth.

Responding to a reporter's query on whether China's opening the field of private investment overseas would lead to the increase of underground banking, Su said the result should be opposite, since a real-name system for investors will be launched by the public security ministry.

"Transactions of funds in legal and illegal channels will be under strict scrutiny," Su said.

Chancellor on the show



German Chancellor Angela Merkel plays with a traditional Chinese diabolo in Beijing Zhongshan Park. She left Beijing Wednesday, concluding her second China tour since she took her current post, which started from August 26.

During her four-day official visit, Merkel

held talks with her Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao, and also met with Chinese President Hu Jintao and top legislator Wu Bangguo.

The chancellor went to Nanjing to attend the opening ceremony for a series of cultural activities aimed to promote Germany in China, August 28.

IC Photo

Nation-wide ban to halt tobacco ads

By Huang Daohen

All terms of tobacco advertising will be banned across China by January, 2011, a senior official said Monday.

Xu Guihua, deputy director and secretary-general of the Chinese Tobacco Control Association announced the deadline in a public report when she participated in a conference focusing on China's implementation of a Framework Convention on Tobacco Control of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province.

The deadline was confirmed by Jiang Yuan, deputy head of the State Tobacco Control Office, an affiliate of the Ministry of Health, who said the timing should coin-

cide with China's commitment as a signatory to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Xinhua news agency reported.

"China should take the issue of tobacco advertising seriously," Xu said during the conference. "[The country] is quite backward when it comes to controlling the use of tobacco, and the biggest problem is the lack of national regulations to ban smoking."

China is the world's largest tobacco producing and consuming country, accounting for more than a third of the global total on both counts.

According to the WHO, China has more than 350 million smokers and about 540 million Chinese citizens suffer the effects of secondhand smoke.

More than 100,000 die annually from diseases caused by passive smoking, and the number will see a rise to 2.2 million by 2020, the ministry's 2007 Report on China's Smoking Control said.

At present, smoking is banned in cinemas, libraries, song and dance halls and conference rooms. Only 28 cities on the Chinese mainland are free of tobacco advertising.

As the host of the 2008 summer Olympic Games, Beijing began a campaign for a smoke-free Olympic Games in April.

By June next year, the tobacco ban should be enforced in all hotels that provide service for athletes and other Games staff, all competition venues and restaurants in the Olympic Village.

Man uses old, blind beggar for profit

By Jiang Xubo

Local police in Haidian District arrested a man accused of employing an 80-year-old blind beggar to beg for him. If true, this would be the first such case in the capital, a spokesman for the Public Security Bureau of Haidian District said this week.

The man, surnamed Chen, who worked in a supermarket near

Zizhuyuan, allegedly employed the beggar in May and made thousands of yuan during the last several months, the police said.

Local police found the blind man, surnamed Wang, begging on an overpass in mid-August during a regular inspection to round up the district's beggars and send them to get aid. The police sent Wang to the district's

rescue station.

Wang told police that Chen, a native of Henan Province, went to his Shandong Province hometown and brought him to the capital at the end of April. Chen offered him a daily salary of 20 yuan plus free room and board. In exchange, Chen acquired all profits Wang earned while begging.

The police arrested Chen on

August 20 when he showed up at the rescue station posing as one of Wang's relatives who had come to take him home.

The police said Chen confessed to taking the blind man to an overpass near Weigongcun at 7am each day, then left him there to beg, and picked him up before dark.

Anyone found to be using other people as beggars may

receive ten to 15 days detention and a fine of up to 1,000 yuan, according to laws on public security administration.

As many as 1,000 rescue stations in the country extended aid to 500,000 beggars last year, but this is only a fraction of the country's total beggar population, according to the annual report issued by the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

Chinese dragon dances at Prague Fair

Fans break wall in Hooke's Law experiment

By Han Manman

It took twelve holes and twenty strikes with a hammer, but the wall finally tumbled down Monday afternoon in Huilongguan District as part of a demonstration by several *Prison Break* fans aiming to prove Hooke's Law of Elasticity could be applied in real life.

In the popular television series, the character Michael Scofield uses the law to break through a wall as part of his escape plan.

According to the organizer, a fan who goes by the handle "Nika 250," they bought the wall from a construction company for 800 yuan. The twelve holes' position had already been marked. "The positions were decided on by a postgraduate student who majored in civil and structural engineering," Nika said. To save time, they replaced the eggbeater used in the show with an electric drill.

People, who crowded around the scene, doubted whether the wall used in the experiment was as strong as reinforced concrete. In an attempt to prove its durability, a fan hit the wall with a hammer several times before the experiment.

It took several minutes, but all 12 holes were drilled. After the holes were made, they began to strike the wall with a heavy sledge hammer. It took four hits before they could put a hole through the wall. They cheered and considered their experiment a success.

The workers, however, got quite a chuckle from the whole performance. A man surnamed Xiao, who lent them the hammer, said air brick-constructed walls could be hammered through with repeated hits even if they weren't employing Hooke's Law.

Nika said they have organized other experiments based on what appeared in the TV show, such as burning a toothbrush to make a key and blowing flour to find what numbers were pressed on a keypad. These experiments were failures.



A Chinese dragon dance troupe performs at the Prague Fair, a six-day International Folklore Festival, which started Tuesday in Prague, capital of the Czech Republic.

Xinhua Photo

Families sue hospital over 21-year twin mix-up

By Han Manman

Parents from two families recently discovered they had raised the wrong son for the last 21 years. The couples have sued Beijing Tongzhou Women's and Children's Hospital and claimed a million yuan in compensation for the birth swap. Tongzhou court accepted their case and began hearing it on Tuesday.

The declaration claimed that on June 23, 1986, the woman, surnamed Pan, gave birth to a pair of twins in Tongzhou Hospital. During the time the baby and the mother were separated, the younger brother Xiang Nan was mistakenly swapped with another baby Wang Yiwu, born four days earlier. Xiang was taken home by

Wang's mother and Xiang's mother brought up one of the twins.

In their court filing, the couples said that the hospital's mistake caused the two families raise the wrong baby for 21 years. They demand a compensation of over 1,160,000 yuan and a public apology.

One of the mothers, Rao Xiurong, said the compensation was not so important, but they demand justice. "Twenty-one years of peaceful family life was suddenly smashed," she said.

The twin's mother Pan said, as time went by, the twins looked more and more different. One is tall and strong, and the other is short and thin. It never occurred to her that the younger one was

not her real son.

The switch came to light when Xiang's classmates said they met a boy that looked the same as him. The boys were shocked when they met each other, but they believed it was a coincidence. When they learned that both families stayed in Tongzhou, more and more people told the two families they saw a boy who looked identical to their son.

DNA tests proved that the two families have raised the wrong sons for 21 years.

The hospital section Chief Zhang said the hospital has changed a lot during the last 21 years. The responsible nurses may already have retired, so it's hard for the hospital to find

anyone to blame.

At Tuesday's trial, the hospital's lawyer said the families' suit is beyond the statute of limitations. The lawyer insists that the present evidence cannot prove the mix-up was the hospital's fault. After the hearing, both sides agree to accept court mediation.

"I don't expect Yiwu to support me when I grow old, because he is not my real son. But I can't ask my real son to do anything for me, because I never raised him even for one day," Wang Jiang, the twins' father, said. He said villages on the capital's outskirts emphasize family continuity more than people in the downtown, and he is worried how his relatives will react.

Brief news

27,000 cases of economic crimes

The Ministry of Public Security on Wednesday announced that police across the country solved 27,000 out of 36,000 cases of economic crimes in the first half of this year, and recov-

ered over 18 billion yuan. 750 billion in investment

The country absorbed a total of US\$750 billion of foreign direct investment by the end of June, since the launch of the Reform and Opening Policy in 1978, Wei Jianguo, vice Minister

of Commerce, said this week. Fewer flood victims

Floods and flood-linked disasters have left 1,138 dead and 210 missing as of this Monday - a 50 percent decrease in the death toll from the same period reported last

year, Chen Lei, minister of the Ministry of Water Resources, said this week.

Giant panda baby boom

Twenty-one panda cubs have survived in captivity in breeding centers and zoos across the country and abroad this year, and

about five more cubs are expected by the end of the year. This is the largest panda baby boom in years, Zhang Zhihe, director of the China Committee of Breeding Technique for Giant Pandas, said Monday.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Beijing seeks new scrutiny of investments by outsiders

Hong Kong (New York Times) – After a quarter-century of welcoming and even courting foreign investors, Chinese lawmakers are set to pass legislation that would limit foreign acquisitions in China on national security grounds this week in the National People's Congress.

Western companies have welcomed many of the law's provisions, including limits on monopolistic behavior by state-owned enterprises, but the final draft has an unexpected last-minute addition: it states that

acquisitions by foreign companies "should go through national security checks."

"There is certainly a desire by China to ensure the crown jewels are not pillaged by foreign invaders," Connie Carnabuci, a partner in the Hong Kong office of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, a multinational law firm, said.

Mergers and acquisitions accounted for only five percent of foreign direct investment before 2004, but rose to 11 percent in 2004 and 20 percent in 2005.

Expert comment

It is a part of the anti-monopoly law approved yesterday in the National People's Congress.

China has adopted a cautious evaluation and approval system targeting mergers and acquisitions by foreign investors for decades. It only clarifies and systemizes the procedure.

It's also a common practice by many governments around the world to secure their own economy and national security.

The Ministry of Commerce

publishes the guidelines every year stating clearly the industries where foreign capital is encouraged, allowed, discouraged and prevented to go and where not.

Therefore, the new law will enable overseas investors to get a clear picture of where they can and cannot go.

– Zheng Zhihai, senior researcher, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation

(By Zhao Hongyi)

Astronauts test traditional medicine in space

Beijing (IANS) – China's astronauts are testing new varieties of traditional medicine that could help treat osteoporosis, insomnia and improve immunity.

Doctors with the China Astronaut Research and Training Center say the new remedies will be prepared for sale after further tests during the country's third manned space programme in 2008.

The medicines have been packaged in pill and capsule forms for the first time. So astronauts will be able to take them in space.

The medicines were intended to improve cardiovascular and heart and blood vessel functions during short space flights or space walks, said Li Yongzhi, a doctor with the centre.

"We have finished human trials and the results were satisfactory," Li said.

No drinking for bus drivers ahead of the Olympics

Beijing (AP) – Bus drivers in Beijing have been warned to watch their drinking ahead of next summer's Olympic Games.

New rules forbid drivers from drinking alcohol within eight hours of starting work and ban them from "excessive" drinking at any time, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The rules are the latest in a long list given to Beijing residents, police and anyone involved in the Olympics, warning them to stop spitting, be polite, learn English, wait in lines patiently and be nice to the hundreds of thousands of visitors expected for the Summer Olympics.

Xinhua said the Municipal Bureau of Quality and Technical Supervision issued the rules "to ensure an orderly public transport system."

Conductors were also warned that they were "forbidden to chat with the driver on the job."



Beijingers pass by the posters of Olympic Games in the Wangfujing Subway Station.

Huge Olympics promotional posters are displayed in most of the subway stations this week, reminding citizens the time of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games draws near.

CFP Photo

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Little girl's cross-country marathon causes controversy

By Jiang Xubo

An eight-year-old girl breasted the tape of her 3,560-kilometer-marathon Tuesday. Through wind, rain and sweltering heat, the girl has been running on her journey from Sanya in Hainan Province to Beijing, with her father, her coach, cycling and spurring her from behind.

Setting off from Sanya on July 3, Zhang Huimin ran through Hainan, Guangdong, Hunan, Hubei, Henan and Hebei provinces the last two months, and finally crossed the finish line early Tuesday morning, when she ran from her hotel in Yizhuang to Tian'anmen Square. Huimin saw her first national flag raising ceremony there, which marked the end of her long journey, as the father claimed, to show their Olympic spirit.

Huimin has earned headlines with strong performances in a series of long-distance races this year. These included a full marathon in Haikou, Hainan Province,



Climbing the Great Wall was the promise Huimin's father made that motivated her all the way.

in January, in which she finished second among all female contestants eight days away from her eighth birthday.

The cross-country trek has sparked media reports, expressing concern over the girl's health, who is less than 1.3 meters tall and weighs only 21 kilograms.

"I make the training fun for her. I don't push her. She loves to run. Many people don't understand us," Zhang Jianmin, 54, her father, said. He also said that previous check-ups verified his daughter's good health.

The girl declined to give further comment upon her arrival, but repeated saying that she liked running and it was not exhaustive.

The father said he had started the girl's training when she was three years old. It was a routine to start their daily training as early as 3am. During this year's summer vacation, the girl even ran ten hours per day, her father said.

The prize of 30,000 yuan, which the girl had won at the Haikou marathon contest, and a donation of 15,000 yuan from the Hainan Provincial Government, made up most of her funds for the trek.

Several companies tried to act as fund-raisers, but the cooperation turned out to be short-lived due to her father's concerns over involving his daughter in commerce.



The eight-year-old Huimin runs the last leg of her marathon to Beijing in rain. CFP Photos

Comment

The girl is still growing. The marathon could be a real trauma for her bones, joints, muscles and even her lungs and heart. Long-term, intensive training may be bad for her bone development. At her age, it's better to develop the girl's physical flexibility and other basic qualities so she can enjoy the sport more in the future.

— Cao Zhenshui, coach, Tsinghua University's long and mid-distance team

If she truly has a passion for running, then this was probably a great experience for her.

— crazymonkey1

It is so nice to see children being active. Not like here, where American children are getting fatter and fatter at alarming rates and childhood diabetes is at epidemic levels. This really embodies how China can inspire people to be individuals and do great things while the American democracy is a stifling, coddling nightmare — an endless womb that most children never want to leave.

— John

There's a difference between running and running hard. An easy 20 kilometers of jogging per

day could be possible for an eight year old, but an Olympic marathon breaks down and destroys the body — children should not run marathons.

Whether fast or slow ... I can't support 66 kilometers in a day for anyone under 18 years old.

— superfusion

Did she say she enjoys it? And even if she does enjoy it, it's killing her. Sometimes a parent has to stop kids from doing things they enjoy when it's bad for them.

— FK0123

(Source: CCTV.com and digg.com)

Indifferent students denied finance aid

By Huang Daohen

Five needy college students in Hubei Province were recently denied to qualify for financial aid because of "their lack of gratitude" to the sponsors.

The five students in Xiangfan, Hubei, have never called, written or thanked their sponsors, according to Chutian Metropolis Daily, a local paper, reported.

The Xiangfan Federation of Trade Unions, together with the city's Women Entrepreneurs Association, launched an aid program last August, under which nineteen female entrepreneurs offered to financially support 22 college freshmen from rural areas and who could not afford tuition.

Each benefactor promised to provide 1,000 to 3,000 yuan (about US\$133-400) per year to each student for the next four years.



More poor families and students in the west are awaiting assistance. CFP Photo

The federation said it sent letters to the students and their families before they enrolled in college, suggesting they write letters to brief sponsors on their studies. However, two-thirds of the students failed to do so.

What's more, one student only identified by the surname Yang, is the daughter of a deputy bureau chief in Xiangfan City.

Some of the businesswomen have refused to sponsor the students this year.

Comment

The situation is embarrassing. Most of the students have a strong sense of pride, and lack an optimistic attitude toward others and society.

Perhaps some of them took the sponsorships for granted because they thought they were good students and deserved the support.

That's why they didn't think to say, "Thank you."

— Zhou Ping, deputy leader of Xiangfan Trade Unions

It's all right if the students do not write to us, but one will feel bitterly disappointed when his benevolence is taken for granted.

— Ma Jianxian, sponsor

I think it is ridiculous to conclude that students are ungrate-

ful just because they did not write to express their thanks.

The purpose of the scholarship is to promote education, not punish needy students.

— hornghan

The new generation forgets to thank because they take it for granted. It is a shame that values like this are allowed to continue.

— BBT

I do not think the benefactors did the right thing. You can't expect to receive rewards every time you give.

Charity cannot come with strings attached.

— Sophine

(Source: china.com.cn and chinadaily.com)

American donates private war collection

By Huang Daohen

"China's history is so vast, and I have no idea whether my materials will be useful," Joseph Wampler, 75, a China-born American, was a bit hesitant last week when he decided to donate a private collection from the 1940s' war era, but had no idea which department he should turn to.

It's no longer Wampler's worry, as several related departments, including the National Museum, China's Military Museum and the National Library, have contacted him and expressed interest in the collection.

"Now my problem is that there are too many departments that want the materials," he said Tuesday. "I hope the files may go to those who really need them."

Private family collection

Wampler kept the materials in his attic for decades before deciding to donate them to China-related departments.

The private collection includes dozens of letters, photographs and documents from the war period. These materials reflect the peasants' lives, the training performance of

the Eighth Route Army soldiers and the ruins after Japanese bombings.

Among the materials, there are bank notes issued by the communist temporary government during the anti-Japanese war period, painted propaganda posters handed out by the Japanese and road permits distributed by the anti-Japanese base, the Kuomintang government as well as the Japanese army headquarters.

Wampler also showed a photograph of Li Gongpu, one of the Democratic League leaders assassinated during the time. He said the photo was taken by a close friend of his father, and the photographer gave it to him before he died.

For Wampler, the most valuable part of the collection is a handwritten manuscript by General Peng Dehuai. He said that Peng personally gave it to his father. It is titled "The Eighth Route Army's Three-year War against Japan."

Recalling the war period

Wampler said his parents came to China in the early 20th century before he was born. Inspired by the faith of "one family in the world," his parents

and their friends started a charity trip into rural China, and finally they arrived at Qinxian County, Shanxi Province.

During the three years in Shanxi, his parents and their peers distributed relief grain to local farmers, helped them set up factories and hospitals. They also provided farmers with new varieties of crops.

In return, locals also helped them at the most difficult times when their houses were destroyed by Japanese bombs.

As a foreigner, Wampler recalled, it was easy for them to access the communist leaders. His father was once a close friend of Bo Yibo, who later became China's vice premier.

The family left China in 1949 due to political reasons, and Wampler returned in 1985 for an international conference.

"The stay in China was very moving... for me," Joe said. "I hope these materials may help reveal details about the war time."

Joe said he would properly choose the National Museum to donate his collection to, and will leave Beijing in late November.



Jose Wampler and his collection
Photo by Hao Yi

Famous soccer player promotes Olympics



As the ambassador of Olympic commemorative coins, famous soccer player Robert Baggio wrote "Collection of the Century" with a Chinese brush.

Photo by Cui Jun

Former FT journalist discusses first book

By He Jianwei

A former correspondent for the *Financial Times*, Laura Tyson Li, brought her first book *Madame Chiang Kai-Shek* to Beijing and discussed the book with the expatriates at Bookworm last Thursday night.

Madame Chiang Kai-shek lived to be 105, but when she died in 2003, many people in the US had no idea of how powerful she was. First-time biographer Li tells the story of Madame Chiang's dramatic life.

"My mother attended Wellesley College in the late 1950s and from childhood I can remember her speaking admiringly of Madame Chiang Kai-shek, who until fairly recently was Wellesley's most famous alumna, and whom my mother once saw give a speech at Wellesley," Tyson Li said.

She wrote an article about Madame Chiang's 100th birthday in March 1997, and started working on the book full-time in July 1998. The book was finally published in October 2006, though the bulk of the research took three years.

When she began research in 1997, Madame Chiang was still alive, which presented certain challenges for her. "At first, I was hopeful that I might be able to interview her, or at least meet her for tea, but the people around her were very protective," she said.

She visited Shanghai and found old newspaper articles at the municipal library. "I went to the Shanghai Archives and to what was formerly called the International Cemetery, where Soong Ching-ling, Madame Chiang's older sister, is buried, and

to her house," she said.

As for the actual writing, she believed that the epilogue was the most difficult. "I was stepping out of my accustomed role of 'unbiased observer' and into a new and relatively unfamiliar role in which I was attempting to draw conclusions and make judgments about her life and her historical role," she said.

Tyson Li first went to China in 1982 on a summer language study program at Beijing Normal University. In the years since she has spent a decade living in China, including the Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan, during which she was a student, business reporter for the *South China Morning Post* and Taiwan correspondent for the *Financial Times* from 1994 to 1998. She has written articles for many publications.



Laura Tyson Li, the author
Photo provided by Laura Tuson Li

Jack-of-all-trades leaves his mark on restaurant

By Gan Tian

Johannes Torpe, an interior designer from Denmark, arrived Monday to take care of his new designs for a high-class Chinese restaurant, "SUBU", opening October in Financial Street. Torpe brought not only his designs, but also his music.

Torpe has worked as an interior designer, fashion designer, music producer, painter and industry designer. Having cooperated with Docle & Gabbana, Skype, Roberto Cavalli and been nominated for a Grammy Award in 2002, he said he aims to bring SUBU a new design that combines fashion and music.

Torpe had difficulty making separate rooms in one room to suit Chinese dining habits. "I have heard that Chinese people prefer to eat in a private environment, especially in the company of close friends. In the West, the restaurant is just one hall and people eat in the open area... I paid much more attention to traditional Chinese behavior."

Torpe decided to create a futuristic feeling in the restaurant, and every customer can choose his or her own music. The lighting changes with the music. "Music is very important in my life. It's something that inspires my designs," Torpe said.

He also conveys his "jack-of-all-trades" characteristics in every aspect of the restaurant. Besides designing the inside, he was also in charge of the plates, uniforms and how, in every separated room, there is an iPod which contains all his selections of music, which the customers can arrange to suit their evening.

There will be a shop opening inside SUBU to sell Torpe's other designs, including watches, coffee machines, CDs, and room decorations.

This new restaurant of the Beijing South Beauty Food & Beverage Co Ltd will surprise urban elites with its special dinner ideas. Wang Xiaofeng, the manager, said he was attracted to Torpe's designs at first sight. "The only thing in this world that doesn't change is that the world is changing all the time. Jack-of-all-trades Johannes has this quality, and he is what we are looking for."

"One of the reasons I am doing this is that I noticed that more and more Chinese people are paying attention to the quality of life," the designer said. "I just provide a special place for them to see how different things can be combined."

Hungarian Cultural Season kicks off tomorrow

By Huang Daohen

For those of you fascinated by the Hungarian culture and the country's beautiful scenery but never had the opportunity to experience it in person, there is good news: the "Hungarian Cultural Season" in China opens on Sunday.

Entitled, "Liberty and Love," the cultural season aims to promote Hungary's tourism and culture, as well as convey an attractive image of Hungary, Sandor Meszaros, ambassador of the Republic of Hungary to China said, at a news briefing.

The venue, which will run until April 2008, will be held in four sections at nine main Chinese cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong. It will be introduced by Hungarian Prime Minister, Ferenc Gyurcsány, in Beijing.

Music, art events and food festivals will be the highlights, including composers Zoltan Kodaly, and poet, Sandor Petofi, who are admired by art lovers in China. The main events will follow in September.

Kodaly exhibition

"Let everyone have his music!" the world-famed quotation comes from Zoltan Kodaly, Hungarian composer and folk music collector. During the exhibition, Koda-



Hungarian folk song and dance will be performed on October 6 at the People's Hall.

Photo provided by Hungary Embassy

ly's most famous "Dances from Marosszek" will be performed. The children from the Chinese Kodaly Association will also present Kodaly's works.

When: Sep 3 - Sep 16

Where: library of Beijing Normal University

Admission: free

Exhibition of Gypsy painters

Though a small country, Hungary has several minorities. The Roma people, traditionally known as Gypsies, represent the largest

minority. The present exhibition displays the best works from the collection of the Roma Parliament in Budapest, offering an invaluable insight, not only into the life of the Roma, but also into the peculiar world of mythology.

When: Sep 2 till Sep 16 from 9am to 5pm

Where: Boyi Gallery, 83, Beihuan Dajie, Dongcheng

Admission: free

Food festival

What Budapest's 130-year-old

Karpatia Restaurant offers you is a week-long tour into the exquisite land of Hungarian tastes, from soups to desserts.

To uphold the tradition of live dinner music in Beijing, the restaurant presents a Gypsy band and folk dancers to let people enjoy it the way Hungarian aristocrats did.

When: Sep 2 - Sep 9

Where: Hotel Shangri-La, 29, Zizhuyuan, Haidian

Tel: 6841 2211

Beach volleyball venue opens to public free

By Annie Wei

Did you see the fantastic Olympic Test Event, the 2007 FIVB Women's beach Volleyball Challenger in Chaoyang Park? Local news talked a lot about how wonderful the sand was in preparing for the game. And the good news is that anyone can go to the park for a visit at no cost and play volleyball in an adjacent venue.

Also, the beach volleyball green scenery area is open to the public. The park said the beach volleyball stadium was worth visiting because it was redesigned from a former coal gas equipment factory.

The free volleyball venue is not where the Olympic Test Event is situated, but right next to it, Yang, from the park said. The park provides four Olympic sand samples so that visitors can experience the kind of sand that will be used in the Olympics.

To visit the Olympic beach volleyball area or to play volleyball there, enter from the newer east gate of Chaoyang Park. Yang said there were two gates at the east side; the right one is the newer and bigger gate.

So far, visiting the Olympic beach volleyball area or playing there is free. It is open from 8am to 8pm, and there is a small convenience store where visitors can get drinks and snacks.



Local and foreign twins get together at Honglingjin Park.

CFP Photo

Register for the local twins festival during the Golden Week in town

By Jiang Xubo

Twins in the capital can register for the fourth Beijing Twins Festival in the next two weeks.

The annual celebration of twins and their families will be held on October 2 during this year's National Day holiday in Honglingjin (Young Pioneer) Park in Chaoyang District.

All twins in the capital are welcome to attend the annual gathering, which charges no admission fee.

Twins will enjoy an oppor-

tunity to perform at the one-day event. They will also get a chance to demonstrate their rapport by painting in collaboration with other twins and taking part in games.

Some 50 pairs of twins, who win the raffle, will be dubbed the annual lucky stars. The organizer will hold a special gathering for the lucky stars, helping them to build contacts and make twin friends.

Twins, who took part in previous events, are welcomed

to send their pictures to 4twtwins@sina.com. The photos will be on display at the event.

Over 300 pairs of twins took part in last year's celebration, the organizer said.

The park, which is located at the junction of East 4th Ring Road and Chaoyang North Road, is open between 6am and 9pm and is free.

To register for the event and for more information, please call the park at 8581 0901 during weekdays.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to weiyang@ynet.com

I heard of some big music festival in Chaoyang Park in September. Can you tell me exactly what time and how much it is? And how popular is this festival in Beijing?

The Beijing Pop Festival (BPF) 2007, one of the biggest outdoor music festivals in Asia, will kick off at Chaoyang Park the weekend of September 8 and 9. This is the third year for this premier music event in China.

The 2007 BPF will feature a set of famous international and domestic headliners on two stages, including Nine Inch Nails, punk music's most iconic artists and Marky Ramone with Brett Anderson, the founder and voice of Suede. China's very own rock n' roll godfather, Cui Jian, will perform on Sunday. Cost: 200 yuan per day, 380 yuan for two days (in advance); 250 yuan per day (show days)

For tickets: 400-818 3333 or piaowutong.com.

Can you tell me why many older Chinese local women shave their eyebrows off and then paint a thick black line above their eyes?

It was a very chic thing to do back in the 1990s, just like the smokey eye makeup trend nowadays. They shaved their eyebrows off and replaced them with eyebrows tattooed in a shape they liked. Unfortunately, some of these daring people find it very difficult to remove them now.

Where can I find good-quality mountain bikes?

The Windspeed Bike Shop is recommended by some expat mountain bikers. They have quite a few outlets in town, 14, Zhichun Dongli, Haidian, 8211 8896, Chaoyangmen, Chaoyang, 8562 2509, Di'anmen, Dongcheng 8403 6967, Shuangyushu, Haidian, 8262 2915.

Are there any dragon boat rowing clubs in Beijing that I can join?

There is a dragon boat rowing group in Beijing. They meet on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings at the Gold Sailing Boathouse, 81A, Houhai Xiyan, 6401 2664.

I saw many foreigners in my building wearing roller blades (in-line skates). Do you know where can I get a pair and where I can go skating, apart from my building area?

There are some sports gear shops in the north gate of the Workers' Stadium, with prices ranging from 500 yuan to 2,000 yuan. Or you can try taobao.com (the Chinese version of ebay) for cheaper deals. Chinese online surfers recommend Tuanjiehu Park (east third ring road) or Yuetan Park (west second ring road) for practicing your skating skills.

(By Wei Ying)

Canoeing Olympic champion expects more in Olympics



Yang Wenjun
Photo by Wu Peng

By Huang Daohu/Zhang Hongxia

Chinese former canoeing Olympic champion Yang Wenjun showed a desire to achieve better results in the forthcoming Beijing Olympics after finishing third in the men's canoe single (C1) 500 meters last Sunday.

"I feel confident about next year's Olympics, and a series of winter training sessions will soon be launched," Yang said after the race, which is part of the "Good Luck Beijing" Canoe/Kayak Flat-water China Open.

"I was not in my element today and I was not satisfied with

my performance in the last minutes of the race," Yang said, "The world championships may drag me back a little."

The 23-year-old canoeist from East China's Jiangxi Province paired with Meng Guanliang from Zhejiang to snatch a surprise gold medal in the men's C2 500 meters at Athens three years ago.

When asked if he would form a pair with former partner Meng in next year's Olympics, he said that it would be the best choice if he were asked to compete in the canoe double event.

"We know each other well,

and I don't have to get used to him," Yang said.

Song Guangli, team leader of the Chinese national team, showed satisfaction with the Chinese athletes' performance. "The result reflects the current situation of the national team, and as for our goal for next year, we will make great efforts to snatch gold medals," Song said.

Song said the Chinese women paddlers performed better than their male counterparts with China being the traditional domain in the event. Two women crews won the chance to compete in the finals after

both finished first in the semifinals, with one winning a bronze medal in the women's Kayak four (K4) 500 meters.

Chen Zhongyun and Zhang Zhiwu surprised all when the two young men won China a silver medal in the Men's Canoe Double (C2) 1,000 meters.

"We will make some adjustments after the race and hope to achieve a breakthrough in single racing," Song said.

This four-day China Open held in Shuyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park has attracted 275 athletes from 32 countries and regions.

Chinese archers have a long way to go



Champion Park Sung-Hyun in the final.

Xinhua Photo

By Zhao Hongyi

After losing in the men's and women's team competition, the Chinese archers were knocked out of the individual's semi-finals in the 2007 Good Luck Beijing International Archery Tournament.

In the men's final on Sunday, Australia's Kim Ha-Neul won the championship while Cheng Chu Sian from Malaysia won the silver and Japan's Furukawa Takahara ranked third.

In the women's final on the previous day, South Korea's Park Sung-Hyun won the gold, Mospinek Justyna and Cwieneczek

Malgorzata from Poland came in second and third.

China's Jiang Lin was defeated by Japan's Furukawa Takahara in the men's individual 1/8 elimination and Zhang Juanjuan ranked only fifth in the women's 1/4 elimination.

Zhang Juanjuan said in the interview after her match, "I need more psychological preparation here in this field." She referred to her need to have more training to get used to competing in front of her fellow countrymen.

Except Jiang and Zhang, all the other

Chinese athletes kept a low tone throughout the competition.

Local Chinese media are appealing for psychological therapy for the athletes who face extremely high pressure as the country prepares for the 2008 Olympics. The athletes are expected to win as many medals as possible.

A comment from Xinhua points directly to the deep-rooted reason behind all this pressure. South Korea promotes archery in their schools. Students are all forced to take basic archery. What's more, the South Korean government entrusts industrial con-

glomerates to sponsor each sports event, including archery.

"It is no wonder that South Korean archers have dominated all the championship events," The comment stated.

South Korea's Park Sung-Hyun joked, at the press conference, that it is more difficult to win in the qualifying competition in South Korea than it is to win the Olympic gold medal.

Chinese archers will have to go through the qualification competition next March. It seems they still have a long way to go.

Chinese women wrestlers shine in junior wrestling

By Chu Meng

The "Good Luck Beijing" 2007 Junior World Wrestling Championships concluded last Sunday, as traditional powerhouse Russia stood first in the medals tally with stable performances. However, remarkably, China made history by winning the women's freestyle team gold.

Among the 24 golds offered in the men's Greco-Roman, freestyle and the women's freestyle events, China settled for second place with three golds, three silvers and three bronzes. All the gold medals were won by Chinese women wrestlers in the 55, 59 and 72kilogram competitions.

The women's freestyle has become China's hottest competi-

tion. As early as the first press conference before the opening ceremony, Raphael Martinetti, the president of the International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles (FILA) predicted that the "Chinese women's wrestling team would be a promising bet to win and hard competitors against Russia, Turkey and Iran."

And his words came true. The Chinese women wrestlers came from nowhere to claim three golds, two silvers and two bronzes in the eight women's freestyle classes, beating down defending champions, Russia, to second place in the team event. Despite sitting out the 2006 World Junior Championships in Guatemala, the newly-formed Chinese team showcased its com-

petitiveness in Beijing.

Wang Jiao became the new rising star of Chinese wrestling as she easily rolled into the finals of the women's freestyle 72kilogram event. Dominating all the matches, she defeated Ekaterina Bukina from Russia in the finals with 2-0, 7-0 and 4-2 scores, showing her aggressive talent. Jenny Fransson from Sweden and Oksana Vashchuk from Ukraine shared the bronze.

In the 72kilogram eliminations ending this morning, Ekaterina Bukina, the bronze medal winner in 2006 Junior World Wrestling Championships, defeated the Ukrainian wrestler within 1 minute and then went on to beat the Indian wrestler in 30 seconds. Obviously, Ekaterina Bukina was determined



Chinese Li Xiao and American Whitney Conder in the 51kilogram women's freestyle competition.

CFP Photo

to win the championship.

Compared with Ekaterina Bukina, China's Wang Jiao, looked undefeatable. Her strong frame made the event easy for her, and in all the eliminations, she didn't lose a single point and won in a very short period of time. So, now, all the expectations of the Chinese women's freestyle team rests on the shoulders of Wang Jiao.

"Though I won the gold, I discovered many disadvantages," said Wang Jiao, "I still have lots to improve. For example, sometimes I was impatient."

After two days' matches in women's freestyle, host China won three golds and clinched the team title with 64 points. Russia places second with 59 points. The Ukraine placed third in the team standings with 43 points.

Canoeists test Shunyi Olympic waters

By Huang Daohen

It was the second time we've arrived at the Shunyi Rowing Canoeing Park as the "Good Luck Beijing" 2007 Canoe/Kayak Slalom and Flat Water China Open were held in the venue

over the past week.

This time, canoeing and kayaking athletes worldwide were put to the challenge on the water. They demonstrated their abilities and tested the newly constructed sports facility.

Slalom course

Cool, exciting and trendy are always words that pop up when you think of slalom water sports. However, the course's quality was top priority.

The slalom course, located in the Shunyi Olympic Rowing and Canoeing Park, is completely navigable along its entire length and provides the same conditions for right and left-handed Canoe Single (C1) paddlers, which is the international standard.

The course is more than 530 meters in length with the racing length being about 280 meters. There is a six-meter fall between the start and the finish, according to the organizers' statement.

At the end of the competition course, there are sufficient warm up and cool down areas for the competitors. These are open to all categories that are competing and do not affect the start and finish areas.

The course consists of natural and artificial obstacles. Four water pumps are used to create swift currents and produce a strong flow of water. Only the best paddlers can beat the rapids to emerge as winners.

In addition, there are 20 water gates throughout the course this time, including five upstream gates.

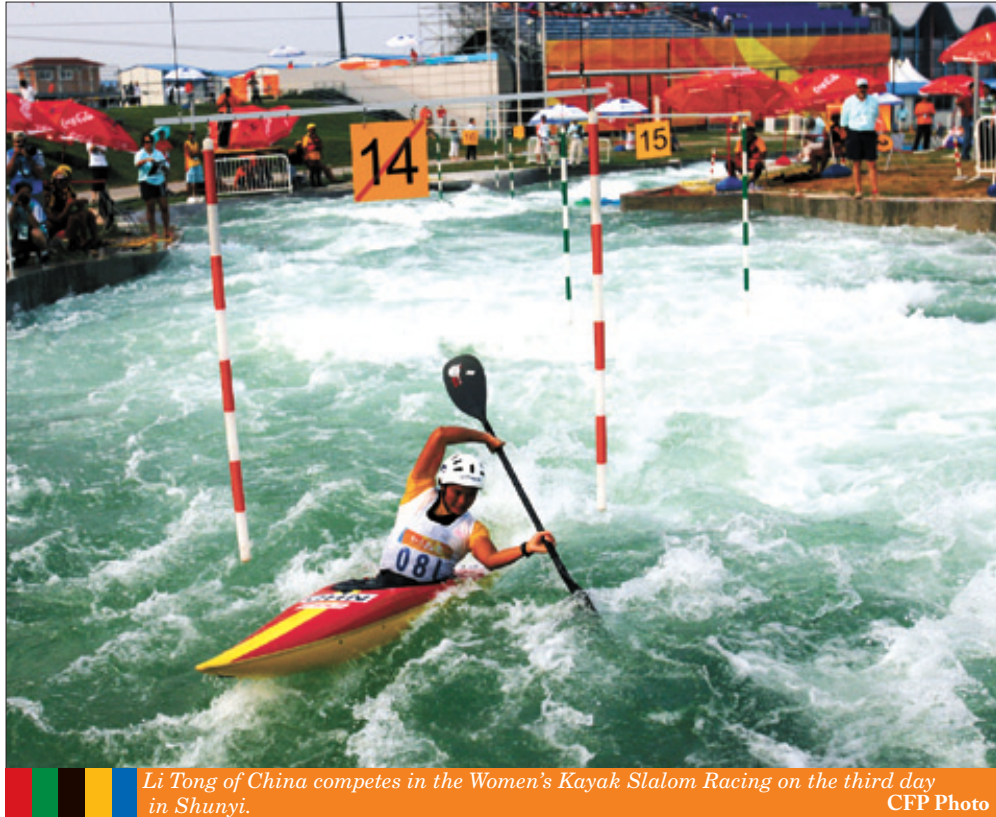
Li Jingjing, K1 women's bronze medalist, said, "The big waves of this venue are much more competitive than other venues and the athletes can't predict what will happen. So I just adjust my style to match the water obstacles."

As a new course, the accredited teams have free access to the course during official training weeks and the scheduled competition days.

Ulrich Feldhoff, International Canoe Federation president, said, "For the Olympics and World Championships, it's a very good course. We need the best course for the Olympics to accommodate the best athletes in the world. I'm really satisfied with the facilities here and the entire course; it's one of the best in the world."



Neat rest area for the ICF. Photo by Wu Peng



Li Tong of China competes in the Women's Kayak Slalom Racing on the third day in Shunyi. CFP Photo

Medical service

Though exciting and fascinating, the slalom competition brings high risk. Therefore, a well-prepared medical service is never to be neglected.

According to Luo Bing, director of the contest department, the organizing committee opened one athletes' medical station, one spectator station and two FOP (field of play) spots during the Canoe/Kayak Slalom China open.

The FOP spot is designed for first-aid on the competition field for athletes who suffer acute and emergency health problems.

The athletes' medical station will provide medical service for the athletes, officials and VIP's. In addition, an onsite ambu-

lance offers transportation to those who need further treatment in the designated hospital, Sino-Japan Friendship Hospital for athletes and officials, Peking Union Medical College for VIP or the Shunyi district hospital, for those who are in an emergency situation, Luo said.

Still, practical operation is the sole criterion of testing.

In the women's K-1 heats, an emergency occurred when, Corinna Kuhnle, Austria's only female paddler, injured her cervical vertebra accidentally.

Kuhnle unexpectedly capsized her boat and was injured in her second round. The first-aid team and doctor arrived within one minute, and after some emer-

gency treatment, the athlete was transported to the first-aid room nearby on a stretcher.

She was then rushed by ambulance to the China-Japan Friendship Hospital for observation and treatment.

According to Zhang Wei, medical manager of the tournament, the injured athlete was later diagnosed with a muscle injury in her neck and a one day rest period was suggested. Kuhnle then returned to the park and attended the race.

"Thanks to the medical service team," Jan Bache-Wing, technical official from the International Canoe Federation said, "I've never seen a doctor arrive at an emergency scene so quickly."

Up grade service

Though the venue's service and facilities are warmly welcomed by the majority, the last time we conducted a survey, during the World Junior Rowing Championships held in the same park earlier in the month, we learned there was still room for improvement.

Lack of screens to view the racing event was one of the spectators' main complaints. Some suggested that there should be screens erected to see the results and forecasts of the competitions. We did notice a broad electronic screen placed in front of the bleachers at the slalom competing area.

According to Su Hua, deputy venue director, the organizing



Recycling temporary toilet. Photo by Wu Peng

committee has been looking into the situation since the rowing event finished. It is difficult to set up screens in the vast rowing area and takes time, Su added.

Some smaller screens will be added surrounding the viewing stands at the rowing course during the Olympics, Su said.

Heat and humidity in the media center is another problem that causes discomfort to journalists, especially Westerners. In order to provide a cooler and better environment for the media, the organizers installed a couple of air conditioners in every media working room.

In addition, a volunteer is posted at each entrance to kindly remind those entering and leaving to close the door in order to maintain the indoor temperature.

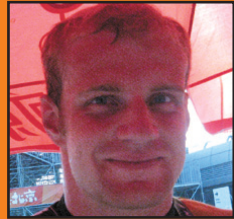
"There will be problems since it is the first time China has hosted such an international mega event," Zhang Qing, secretary-general of the organizing committee, said, "but we are ready to accept suggestions from the world to help us improve more."

Comment



The spectators were too silent – no comments, no cheers. It's not like the guys back in my hometown. I just hope the government publicizes this event well so that the Chinese people can learn more about it.

– **Blakeman Laura**, athlete, Great Britain



I have to admit that the course in Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park is perfect. But it's also the most difficult one I have ever seen. How quick the current was! I wish the organizers could offer the athletes more chances to get familiar with the course.

– **Pfannmoller Erik**, Kayakist, Germany



The warming up area is a bit far from the competing area, so it's pretty hard for us judges to call the athletes back for boat checking.

– **Mohd Radzi Mohd Datar**, international technology officer



Though I won second prize in the K1 500m M Final today, I believe I will achieve better results in the 2008 Olympics.

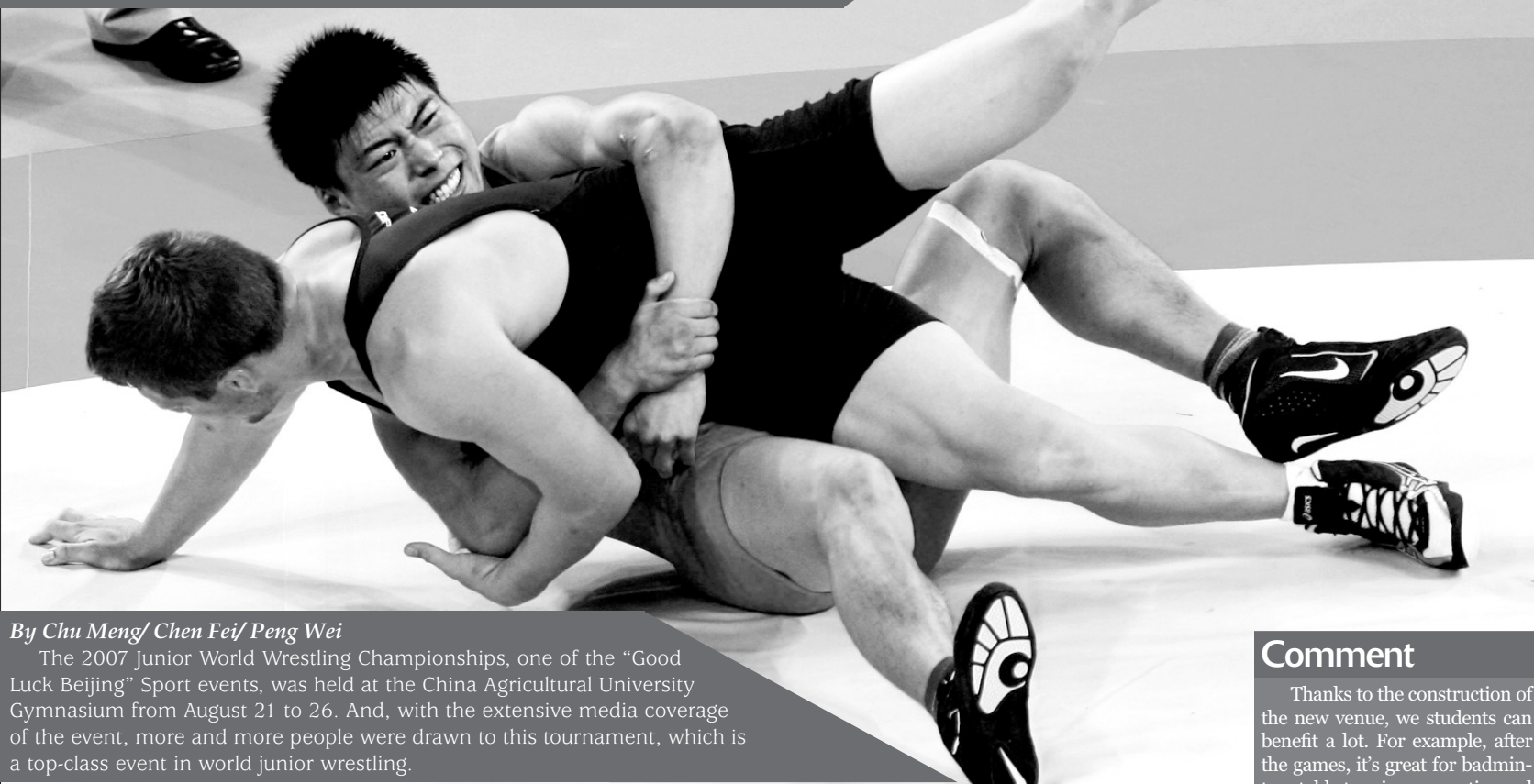
– **Wallace Kenneth**, athlete from Australia



These four days will become the most unforgettable experience of my life. I stand out from my peers since I became one of the 665 volunteers here.

– **Xiao Yu**, volunteer (By Chi Rong, Peng Wei, Yao Jia, Zhang Xinting)

The battle of power



By Chu Meng/ Chen Fei/ Peng Wei

The 2007 Junior World Wrestling Championships, one of the "Good Luck Beijing" Sport events, was held at the China Agricultural University Gymnasium from August 21 to 26. And, with the extensive media coverage of the event, more and more people were drawn to this tournament, which is a top-class event in world junior wrestling.

Xin Xiaowei (top) of China and Chad Hemerson of the US wrestle in the Men's 76kg Greco-Roman competition.
Photo by Guang Niu

Traffic and transportation

So as to ensure smooth transportation for hundreds of visitors from home and abroad during the event, the municipal authorities of the Beijing Municipal Government have gone all out to improve and reconstruct the transport facilities near the venue. The main roads nearby, Qinghua East Road and Xueqing Road, have been resurfaced to improve conditions.

"After these improvements, the traffic congestion, which was common place during the rush hour, has been greatly eased," Li Qiucheng, a student at China Agricultural University, said.

The public transportation facilities are all encompassing. There are 37 bus routes available in the school area making it very convenient to reach the venue. For instance, there are six bus routes at the south gate of the university; eleven bus routes stop at the west gate; and nine bus routes stop at the southeast section of the south gate. Besides, clear signs indicating the direction to the venue, have been set up along the roads to better help visitors.

There are five parking lots within the venue. No's 1 to 4 are dedicated to the players and officials, and No 5 to the media. No private cars without the proper license are allowed to park within the venue. So, it is recommended that you use public transportation if you are a regular spectator. Furthermore, in order to secure smooth transportation within the venue, point constables are on mount guard from 7am till 11pm. When the point constables are busy, they

have no time for meals in the dining hall so they opt to eat on the job.

As the day is rather hot and the work busy, their bodies are sometimes bathed in sweat. "But we get used to it," one of the constables said, tanned as a result of working in the sun for many hours. The drivers, who are responsible for the transportation of higher officials, suffer likewise. "Sometimes we stand momentarily to enjoy the game," Rong Huanli, a TOS worker said.

However, most of the consultation services, including the volunteer posts, are located within the venue. This can sometimes be inconvenient for visitors who are unfamiliar with the nearby environment. Possibly, more volunteer and consultation booths or directional signs could be set up along the road or around the campuses to better serve visitors.

Volunteers' Smiles at the venue

The number of volunteers, administrated by China Agricultural University, totalled 427 for this test event, all of whom were selected from approximately 5,200 student applicants on campus.

"Oh yes, we have been quite busy lately, but as the event progresses, things are relaxing. That's why I can now sit here and talk to you at ease, because, at present, there isn't a mountain of order forms on my desk!" He Chengsong, the volunteers' student manager of the logistics department at the university, said.

There are a total of 104 volunteers working in the logistics department. According to He, the hardest

time was around the 15th and 16th of this month, "a time when all the other sections 'suddenly' realized simultaneously that they were running short of a wide range of things, like materials, uniforms and facilities." As there were only a few days left before the first competition began, this put great pressure on the department. Anyway, He and his colleagues eventually made it through and satisfied all the other sections satisfactorily.

There were, of course, things that were not always a burden. "One happening greatly lifted my spirits. It was the connection I made with the boss of a small company selling office facilities in Zhongguancun. On hearing that we were making purchases for "Good Luck Beijing," this gentleman made generous discounts on all the goods and helped us transport them to the university for free!" He recalled with gratitude.

"And what's more, he showed great trust with respect to our bill as well as consideration and understanding towards our problems. He has never called me once for a late bill payment," He said. This warm little story reveals how much desire to contribute to "Good Luck Beijing" and the Olympics is shown by the common citizen.

Potential swimming pool

The wrestling venue (China Agricultural University Gymnasium) is located on the eastern campus of China Agricultural University. Transport to the venue, which is about two miles from the Olympic Park, is very convenient. The venue covers an area

of 24,000 square meters with a capacity of 8,000 seats, among which, 6,000 are permanent seats and 2,000 are removable.

After the Olympic Games, the venue will function as a comprehensive indoor gym for the university. The gym will have a warm-up court and spaces for various sports competitions and large-scale activities, such as badminton, table tennis, gymnastics, volleyball, basketball, handball and indoor football matches, benefitting, not only the university, but also the surrounding community.

Inside the venue are three mats for Olympic wrestling competitions. An auxiliary training lobby is also available for the athletes during Games. After the Games, the lobby will revive its original function as an indoor swimming pool. During construction, the pool was backfilled with sand and it will serve as an auxiliary lobby at the Games.

In 2002, geothermal water was discovered in the university area where it was tested at 49 degrees Celsius. So, the Olympic wrestling athletes and the swimmers after the Games can use the water to take a bath as the teachers and students of the university do now.

Natural lighting at daytime features the "green venue." Upon entering the venue, one can see panes of glass separating the roof's steps which can be automatically adjusted to allow for ventilation or to add natural lighting. The skylights provide enough lighting for daytime activities. The environmentally-friendly design will benefit the university in areas of cost and energy saving.

Comment

Thanks to the construction of the new venue, we students can benefit a lot. For example, after the games, it's great for badminton, table tennis, gymnastics and basketball. We will be able to enjoy it.

— Ma Hongfei, a student from the China Agricultural University

I was especially impressed by their perfect language skills. You know, I speak English and it's all right for me, but for my friends, who speak French, Japanese or even Portuguese, it was really amazing that they all got served without any problems.

— Cleb Kolotov, from Russia, who leads a group of friends from all over the world to Beijing just for the games

Though I have to work in the sun for seven days, I still feel rather happy because I have the opportunity to work for such a great event.

— Kong Yangzhen, a volunteer for the Games

It is great that my community has the opportunity to stage the games. I am always paying close attention and I hope it will all work well.

— one of the residents from a nearby community

In my opinion, the Games has been well prepared in every aspect, from scheduling and transportation to health care and consolation services.

— Xu Erqi, a transport traffic assistant for the testing event.

Well, I think it would be better to provide shaded areas for people waiting in the square, for it is rather hot there without a shelter.

— one of the spectators

Arrows targeting the Green Olympic Games

Security

The organizers have installed highly alarmed security inspection stations at the main entrance. The purpose is to guarantee a safe and successful competition.

The first line of security is the security officer who checks the working ID cards carefully.

The second point is the smiling volunteer who reminds you to run all your bags through the x-ray scanning machine. At the end of the scanner are policemen and more volunteers. If they find anything suspect, they will seriously check your bag, after obtaining your consent, of course.

They found two bread items when I entered the gate on the first day and confiscated them. On the second day, they confiscated a bottle of Coca Cola in my hand and, on the third day, they seized a small pocket knife in my bag and returned it when I left the field after all the competitions were over.

Security is not only tight at the entrance. The whole venue is divided into different blocks with volunteers safeguarding the entrances strictly. Only those with proper ID cards can enter into the relevant blocks. This measure brought complaints from the media.

Inside the courts, volunteers in orange shirts are very cautious with overly excited spectators persuading them to remain in their seats.

Improvement to perfection

The newly built green archery field has received high praise from athletes and coaches alike, but they have also offered some suggestions.

The Polish coach and some Japanese athletes complained the wind direction in Beijing shifts constantly, and they hope the competition venue will be better protected.

"We have trained under various conditions, but never imagined the wind direction here would be so dynamic," the Polish coach complained at the post game press conference.

The men's individual champion from Australia, Kim Ha-Neul, complained that the spectators' stands are too close to the competition field, which, he believes, will make the archers nervous and depressed when competing.

The Polish team coach also complained the pace of competition is becoming faster and faster. But the officials from FITA explained that is inevitable.

By Zhao Hongyi

As a trial competition to test the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games' venues, the 2007 Good Luck Beijing International Archery Tournament was held at the Olympic Green Archery Field last week.

The compound field consists of the competition venue, media center, mixed zone, athletes' and team officials' lounge, main entrance (with high security check), all of which are of world-class standards and have won high praise from the athletes and officials.



Men's individual final in Court A of the Green Archery Field.

Photo by Zhao Hongyi

Volunteers – accessible assistance in every corner

Over 100 volunteers, mostly university students, are trained to stand on duty at every corner of the field and outside.

They provide high quality service and always sport happy smiles. Outside the main entrance, a dozen volunteers stand at the info desk. Their orange shirts are very eye-catching and always put your mind at ease: "That's the place!"

These kind and polite vol-

unteers stand side by side with the security officers at the main entrance, inspecting every detail of the visitors.

But these boys and girls are really helpful and kind-hearted. They try their best to solve any problem.

"Without these volunteers, we could not manage the competition here," Didier Mievile, FITA Communication Officer, commented.

The Olympic Green Archery Field

The Olympic Green Archery Field is located in the Olympic Green, a park built specifically for the 2008 Beijing Olympics in the northern part of Beijing.

The field is only 0.8 kilometers from the Olympic Village and has three competition fields: Court A, Court B and the Ranking Round Field.

Court A and B have two targets and 4,500 and 800 seats respectively, while the Ranking Round Field has 24 targets and is also used for warm-up training.

In the training field, an athletes' rest area with information services and bottled water is available. A shading canopy (four meters wide) stretches the full length of the shooting line and provides protection from sun and rain. Ten meters back is another line of buildings, providing showers, toilets, places to rest and a scoring center.

From the training field, athletes, coaches and officials will be escorted to the competing courts through a highly secured corridor.

Court A and Court B are the same size. But Court A has more seats and is used as the main competition venue for the finals. Award ceremonies are also held in Court A.

Media Center

The Media Center is adjacent to Court A and Court B in the south. This compound consists of four parts: journalists' hall, photographers' hall, press conference hall and rest room.

The journalists' hall is the biggest and offers facilities for reporters to work, while the photographers' hall provides space for the reporters to store their equipment. Reporters can gather the latest competition results here, as well.

"We'll merge the two halls together as we'll have many more reporters from around the world," Chen Ping, deputy director for the media center said.

The press conference hall is used for the winners to meet media and do interviews. The organizers will issue further notices concerning additional press conference areas for the officials and coaches.

The rest room is the most popular place reporters like to frequent. As the organizers do not allow spectators, reporters and all entering the field to bring in any food and drinks, the rest room provides snacks, cuisines, drinks and coffee making it very popular.

Comment



I think everything is good, but the smog is a serious problem in Beijing. Sometimes there is heavy traffic. I believe all will be handled by 2008.

– Dieter Bessert, German traveller



Everything is perfect here except the hot and humid weather. I find it a little difficult to adapt to the low pressure.

– Markiyano Ivashko, Ukrainian archer



The transportation is very convenient, but the food we eat here is different from what we usually eat. We eat food that is not fried as much and is less oily.

– Calvin Hartley, South African athlete



The weather is too hot in Beijing. And there aren't many big shops nearby. It is difficult for us to buy something we need.

– Rafal Dobrowolski, Polish athlete



The only problem for coaches, I think, is the lunches. We have to go back to the hotel to eat and then return for the training sessions in the afternoon. It's a waste of time.

– Michael Usherenko, US coach

(By Han Yaqi)



Young is po

Get It Louder touches down in Beijing

GIL is a "visual noise" show produced by young, talented designers and artists from around the globe. The exhibition was conceived as a platform for showcasing their creativity and personal thoughts and how they explore sources of inspiration in their daily lives. It also examines graphic arts and design as a lifestyle, attitude and integral part of urban culture.

GIL is the first art and design exhibition of its kind held on the Chinese mainland since 2005, and it has become a large-scale touring biennale. This year, GIL will be in four cities: Guangzhou, Shanghai, Beijing and Chengdu.

"Everyone is a Curator." — Ou Ning, curator-in-chief of GIL

Rather than focus on a particular format or medium, the exhibition will bring in fresh and innovative art works from a diverse range of creative fields, including print, web, moving images, photography, video and fashion. Nine curators from four countries have worked together to prepare this year's show.

GIL takes place in shopping malls this year. In Beijing, they chose the SOHO Shangdu, creating a lot of specialized spaces outdoors and using its underground parking lot and some corridors. "We have placed all the works in areas where people who are out shopping can't possibly miss them. What is interesting is blending the shopping experience with that of exhibition-viewing," Ou Ning, curator-in-chief of Get It Louder 2007, said.

Ou believes the idea behind holding an art exhibition in this kind of large-scale consumerist space, other than being an attempt to break away from the conventional exhibition model of museums and biennials, is an attempt to dismiss the idea of art as a sanctuary — to enable art to enter people's lives and to bring it closer to them.

"Perhaps allowing people to encounter art by accident while they are taking part in leisure and consumer activities is a more effective way to get art into people's hearts rather than through rigid education," he said.

Another characteristic of the GIL this year is that, other than the main exhibition venues in each of the four cities, the curators have developed a form of satellite show called "Homeshow," which shows exhibitions and activities organized at private apartments or small-scale offices.

It can be seen as an extension of the traditional public space; it blurs the conventionality of public and private and develops a new urban interpersonal culture with its guerrilla subculture tactics under the radar of the mainstream.

"We will promote it as a guerrilla space for the young and underground urbanites of China, and it's a unique forum for our exhibition this year. It demonstrates clearly the concept that everyone being a curator is not a dream," he said.

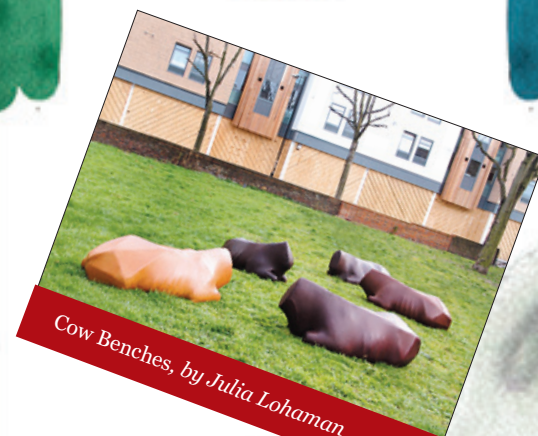
By He Jianwei

Since June 23, "Get It Louder" (GIL), in which young designers and artists from home and abroad can get together to present themselves freely, has traveled Guangzhou and Shanghai. On August 18, it landed in Beijing.

The people involved in the exhibition, including the curators, artists, designers and audiences, shared the experience of participating in the GIL. No matter who speaks loudest in the GIL, the young are powerful.



Plates, by Danny Brown



Cow Benches, by Julia Lohaman



Light Weeds, by Simon Heijdens

Say Hi to the Sunset & The Moving Forest, by Zhou Beili

Powerful

ing



Tree House, by Tom Chuan Shi

“Placing the show in spaces that are public and not art-biased is a great idea.” – Matthias Kispert, one of the members of D-Fuse, a group of London-based artists

D-Fuse is a group of London based artists founded in the mid 90s by Michael Faulkner with the goal of exploring a range of creative media - art, architecture, photography, film and live Audio-visual performances. Working in a trans-disciplinary way, with cutting edge technology, D-Fuse encourages their audience to reflect on the process of experiencing art in a multi-dimensional, multi-sensory way with emphasis on the key relationship between sound and image.

“It is a show where artists and designers are becoming exposed to a broader public. Placing the show in spaces that are public and not art-biased is a great idea, because it makes our work accessible to people who could not have experienced it otherwise,” Matthias Kispert, one of the members of D-Fuse said.

They have been working with a number of Chinese artists for their project, “Undercurrent.” “We participated in GIL 2005 – that’s how we first heard about it,” he said.

“A lot of the work shown at GIL is somewhere between the realm of art and design, and this is also very true for our work. The distinction between art and design is a very blurred one, and we have always enjoyed experimenting along this boundary and challenging preconceptions about what art or design ought to be,” he said.

“Design and art are but a power, an influence to impact the main culture.” – Tom Chuan Shi, a multi-disciplinary designer

Tom Chuan Shi is a multi-disciplined designer. He brought his “Tree House,” which is a project about the future of kitchens, to GIL. It is a statement addressing future homes – people will live a simpler, healthier, more convenient and poetic life.

“GIL means artists should speak out, and make noise. Design and art are not only the sub-culture, underground-culture, but a power, an influence to impact

the main culture, and it should, it does in fact,” he said.

GIL is like a modern dance, no specific rule or script to follow. It just offers a stage for the artist to showcase their talent, to impress the audience. “It is situated so close to the audience that you can interact with them and get their feedback immediately,” he said.

“GIL is ... a powerful motor to create positive changes in the culture, society, and industry of a country.” – Sebastien Noel, one of the members in Troika, a London-based art group

Founded in 2003 by Conny Freyer, Eva Rucki and Sebastien Noel, this multi-disciplinary art and design practice, Troika, draws on its members’ multi-disciplinary backgrounds in product and communication design to focus on the cross-contamination of arts and design disciplines to develop projects both engaging and demanding to the user, where design and information never stray far from each other.

“GIL is trying to create a platform for the creative, to promote the value of art and design in China, not only as something to embellish your house, but as a powerful motor to create positive changes in the culture, society, and industry of a country subject to a breath-taking expansion,” Noel said.

They made their piece “Magnetic Guangzhou” specifically for GIL. “The tone of the piece, its subject matter and meaning reflect our vision of China and its current cultural design—especially regarding electronics—as well as our understanding of GIL and its context,” he said.

“It will be interesting to hear the reaction of people who don’t usually go to exhibitions.” – Julian Lohman, a British artist

The transformation of humble materials into things of beauty and value is a common theme among today’s product designers, but Julia Lohmann takes it a step further. Intent on exploring the contradictions in our relationship with animals as sources of food and materials, she works with some of the most basic and banal materials – offal, off-cuts of leather and other waste products of the meat industry – with the aim of making leftovers valuable.

“By shifting the exhibition space to a shopping mall, the organizers are trying to attract a broader audience. It will be interesting to hear the reaction of people who don’t usually go to exhibitions,” Lohman said.

Her work, the cow bench and cow-stomach lamp speak volumes about our relationship with animals. “My work suggests that we should not forget the animal origins of leather-items or meat products,” she said.

“GIL looks like a forest and we have a party in it.” – PERK, a Shanghai based group of artists

Jin Ningning and Si Wei established PERK Art Studio in September 2004. PERK’s Chinese name is “Po Ke,” meaning “break through a crust.”

“When I heard of the title, ‘Get It Louder,’ it seemed like someone was speaking loudly into my ear,” Si Wei said.

She believes GIL has its own principle, which advocates something experimental and informal.

To the artists: Which work is your favorite?

I have seen some of the presentations from the UK Chapter, and particularly liked the work of Shezad Darwood and Troika, because they have very interesting ideas about why they do what they do, and they have a good sense of humor in their work. I also enjoyed Cao Fei’s video very much – although it is a documentary about Second Life, it reflects on a lot more issues, such as fluid/created identities, escapism and the search for happiness. Very poetic.

– Matthias Kispert



This exhibition gave me a great opportunity to meet a lot of artists. I like them a lot. What impressed me was the passion they have for design, and the different perspectives on understanding daily life. When you see a design, the motivation behind it is always very interesting and meaningful.

– Tom Chuan Shi

I was very impressed by Simon Heijdens’ refinement and the idea of a slow, natural technology, by Martino Gamper’s extreme playfulness and iconoclastic designs, and by Marloes Ten Bohmer imagination and ability to re-think such a common artifact as shoes.

– Sebastien Noel



I liked the work of WOK Media, the surprise and amazement of electricity underwater. It was like a three-dimensional riddle. I also liked the beautiful shoes of Marloes Ten Bhoemer and the work of Assa Assuach. Unfortunately, I don’t know the work of the other international artists so I am looking forward to their catalogues.

– Julian Lohman

To visitors:

Q1 What does “Get It Louder” mean?

Q2 What’s the most interesting thing at GIL’s Beijing station?

Q3 Which work attracted you most?

Q4 Which part disappointed you?

Jiang Yujie, a freelancer

A1 It means the audience is currently niche.

A2 It’s free.

A3 I liked Simon Heijdens’ light weeds. When people pass though, the weeds move.

A4 I was disappointed not to see more creative works.



Wang Xu, a clerk working in a PR company

A1 It allows young artists to speak louder to the outside world.

A2 The UK Chapter attracted me a lot.

A3 I loved Dainel Brown’s Plates.

A4 I was not disappointed with this year’s GIL, as it included more types of art.



Liang Jing, a multi-media designer

A1 It will attract more and more people and let them get in touch with design.

A2 The platform for young artist was the most interesting thing.

A3 I liked Benny Luk’s character designs.

A4 I was disappointed with the location. The shopping mall makes the exhibition seem disorderly.



Photos provided by Modern Media

Focus on the Good Stuff

The Power of Appreciation

Negative things pervade our lives, regardless of whether we choose to listen to radio, watch television, or read the newspaper or surf the Internet. This book talks about how to deal with the "bad stuff."

Written by a former professional baseball player whose career ended after he injured his pitching arm mid-third season, *Focus on the Good Stuff* (240pp, Jossey-Bass, US\$19.95) is filled with passion, authenticity and humor. Author Mike Robbins offers a step-by-step program with exercises to overcome negative influences and obstacles, and create a truly grateful approach to life and establish an environment that can support success and peace of mind.

Good Stuff explores the many challenges involved in expressing and experiencing appreciation and gratitude in our lives, and then presents readers with simple, yet effective, ways to exercise the power of appreciation.

You will experience the positive impact of appreciation on yourself and others, learn how to be grateful for your life now, gain insight into using your thoughts, feelings and words to create circumstances and relationships that you appreciate, consider how to acknowledge people from your heart and explore appreciating yourself in new and profound ways.

This book is filled with action items, ideas and suggested practices. It is easy to take what you learn in *Good Stuff* and apply it to your life right away, because appreciation allows you to improve your relationships, create greater success and fulfillment and experience a deep sense of gratitude for yourself, others and life itself.

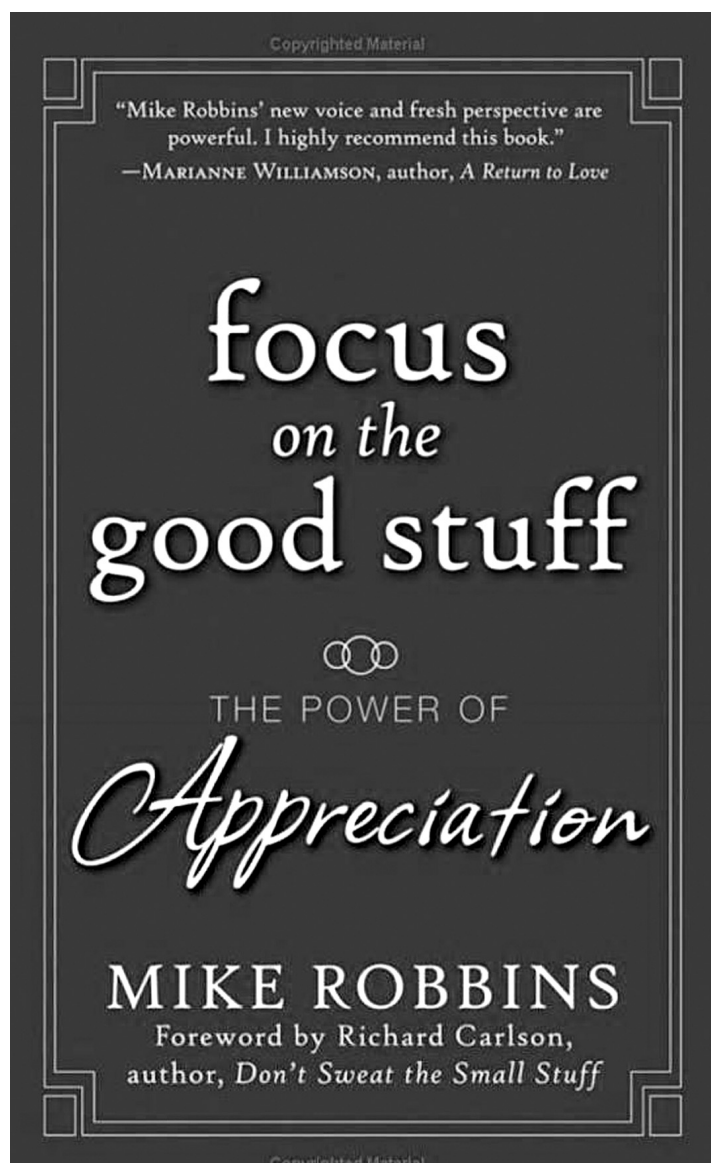
Although the book was only published a week ago, it is already getting rare reviews from Robbins peers, who believe it has a positive impact.

"Robbins reminds us to focus on the very best aspects of ourselves and those around us. Written in his compelling and compassionate voice, this book is a much-needed consciousness raising for people who want successful relationships and fulfilling lives," Susan Page, author of *When Talking Is Not Enough*, said.

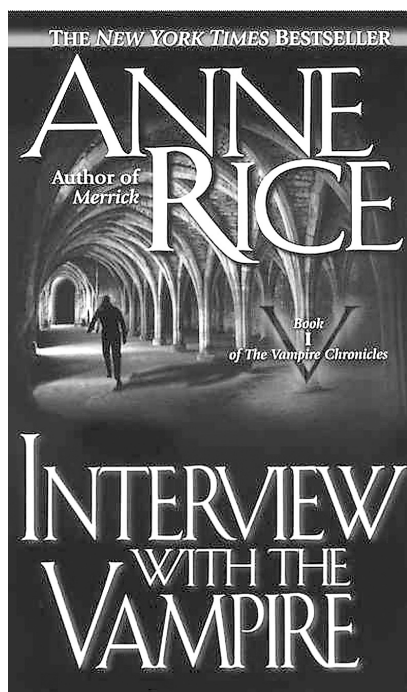
About the Author

Mike Robbins, former pitcher for the Kansas City Royals, is a sought-after keynote speaker, consultant and coach. He has inspired thousands through his keynotes, seminars and workshops. His clients include AT&T, Chevron, the US Department of Labor, Kaiser Permanente, New York Life Insurance and Stanford University.

(By He Jianwei)



The loneliness of vampires



By Gan Tian

What is your idea of a vampire?

Anne Rice described every vampire as a male beauty in her book *Interview with the Vampire* (Ballantine Books, US\$7.99), "sculpted from bleached bone, and his face was as seemingly inanimate as a statue."

But every vampire had his start as a lonely human. Some continue that tradition into immortality.

Interview gives Louis de Pointe du Lac the chance to relay his 200-year life to a mortal interviewer. That's a long time for the mind to take in life. In 1791, Louis was a young plantation owner in New Orleans, Louisiana, US. He fell into depression after his brother's untimely death. A quarrel with his brother over religious inclinations left him feeling responsible and wishing for his own end. That's when another vampire, Lestat de Lioncourt, invited him to share in the immortal adventure.

With an immortal body, ever-lasting youth and an extraordinarily beautiful face, it would seem vampires are something to envy. Not so, according to Louis.

Lestat, a seemingly-cruel vampire, kills

for food as is his nature. Louis, however, has a few hang-ups about letting go of his mortality. For a while he feeds on animals, and later, still cannot disconnect from his morals during meal time. Louis has had an extremely lonely life, and the feelings come to a climax when the book's interviewer asks to be made a vampire after hearing his story. What started out as an attempt to pull himself out of loneliness ends for Louis in a realization that none can understand the suffering of immortals.

Rice paints a vivid picture of Louis's loneliness. When your morals are dramatically different from those around you, life is isolated.

The movie adaptation of the book, directed by Neil Jordan in 1994, was more direct with these ideas. Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise gave stunning performances, and really captured the haunting beauty Rice describes in her book.

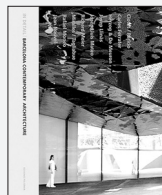
Do you still admire vampires? Sure, they may be beautiful, but before you run off and decide to join the legions of the damned, read Louis's analysis. Don't forget: eternity is a long, long time.

Timezone 8 Recommendations

Timezone 8 Limited is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design.

Detalles: Barcelona Contemporary Architecture

By Quim Larrea, 134pp, Ediciones Poligrafa SA, 450 yuan



The city of Barcelona has been known since the early twentieth century as the home of Art Nouveau. Now, it is also a center for contemporary international architecture. The complexity of the new generation of structures and the variety of local and international talent are auspicious signs for Barcelona this century.

Victor Gruen: From Urban Shop to New City

By Alex Wall, 267pp, Actar, 390 yuan



Commercial architect Victor Gruen (1903-1980) is known as the father of the modern American shopping mall. Featuring air-conditioning for the summer and heat for the winter, two-tiered parking, a "garden court" under a skylight, complete with cafe, fishpond, trees, balconies with hanging plants and an enormous cage filled with colorful birds, his 1956 Southdale Center, the first fully-enclosed bi-level shopping mall, was a response to changes in suburban form.

Ferrari Research Center

By Massimiliano Fuksas, 144pp, Actar, 300 yuan



The Ferrari Industrial Complex, an extraordinary campus devoted to designing and testing Ferrari cars, has been testing some major design changes of its own. World-renowned Italian architect Massimiliano Fuksas's new research center, built between the wind tunnel and the machinery building, will now host the offices of Ferrari Technical Management.

(By He Jianwei)

To shave or not to shave

That's not the question

By Gan Tian

Jeremy Hilton, a three-year Beijing resident, has been growing out his beard. His face isn't the only part of him that's hairy – he also sports quite a pelt on his chest. "At first I shaved my beard, because people here don't usually have facial hair. I really want to grow it out this fall," he said. "Being a hairy guy is in fashion!"

Asian guys don't usually share Jeremy's problem. Most have sparse hair, but Wang Shuiya still plans to have a try at growing out what he has. "I think girls interpret hairy as 'sexy' or 'good in bed' or something like that. Besides, who says being hairy means being poorly groomed? I wash it every day."

According to "Mozz," pseudonym of Men's Health body-figure expert, the verdict on whether or not to keep your body hair depends on build. "If a guy has a fit chest, then it can look quite manly and sexy, like how Sean Connery looks. I'm not sure if it's red hair. I think a lot of trends tend to say a chest is best smooth but I think a hairy chest shows masculinity and is a turn on for guys and girls. If they say it's not, then they're in denial and just following contemporary fashion."

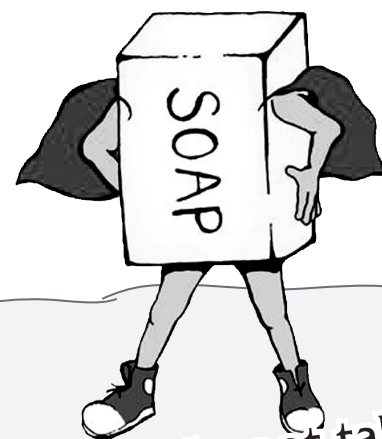
Some men even feel ashamed about

their lack of facial and chest hair. "My chest is totally bare except for a couple of hairs that poke out of my nipples. I really wish I had a shaggier chest. When I take my shirt off, I look like an eight-year-old girl and it really sucks," Mike Kincaid said.

"I don't think shaving or waxing or [doing] whatever [to] their chest hair is a good way for a guy to be his natural self," Sarah Johnson said. "The most important thing is to be confident and natural. Those guys showing their hair look powerful because they are confident and don't care how other people look at them. They are just who they are."

If you want to keep your sexy, hairy body clean and nice, don't forget to bathe every day. On the hottest days, you should use deodorant.

This shouldn't even be an issue – save your hair and be a sexy guy this fall.



You do not talk about Soap Club

By Gan Tian

As part of her romantic efforts, Shirley Wang has been surprising her boyfriend with new and colorful soaps every day. Making your own soap is a great way to show someone you care, and it's quite easy!

James Hershberger, a hobbyist soap-maker, shares his ideas on this trendy handicraft.

Ingredients: 340g pure lye, 600g chilled or partly frozen distilled water, 2.5kg lard or all vegetable shortening, a mixing bowl.

Procedure: Freeze half the water into ice cubes. Place the ice cubes and remaining water into the bowl. Using a spoon, stir while slowly pouring the lye into the bowl. Stir until the lye has completely dissolved.

Cover the solution and allow it to sit until it reaches about 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Melt the lard in another bowl,

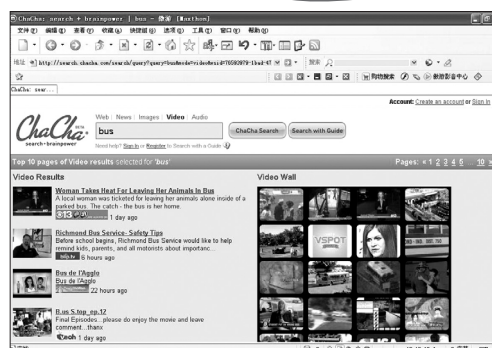
and cool it to 95 degrees Fahrenheit. You can prepare a box to put the fresh soap in to prevent leaks while it dries.

Stir the liquid fat while pouring the lye water into it in a small stream until it is totally mixed. Beat the liquid with a hand blender in a circular motion until it begins to cool and thicken.

Carve a shape into the mix when it turns dark, then creamy, then heavy. After half an hour, you can pour the mixed liquid into the box. Three to five hours later, the soap will be ready and you can shape it since it's still soft.

Be careful when using lye! It is very dangerous and will burn your skin and eyes. Use a lot of water and little vinegar to wash off splatters.

Mail me a heart-shaped bar of soap if you enjoyed this article!



Screenshot of chacha.com

Human-powered search engines?

By Gan Tian

I was going crazy searching for another new trend when I stumbled on to a new Internet site – chacha.com. chacha provides a search engine, but with a twist – you are searching for people, not pages.

When you visit chacha, you can enter a keyword in the search bar. It can be a word or a question. After you strike "Enter," you won't have any immediate results. Instead, the site directs you to a searching guide that will answer your search requests directly.

The guide may ask further questions if needed. You can look at the answers to your questions or chat with a guide. Hey, if it seems strange, just remember, he's only doing his job!

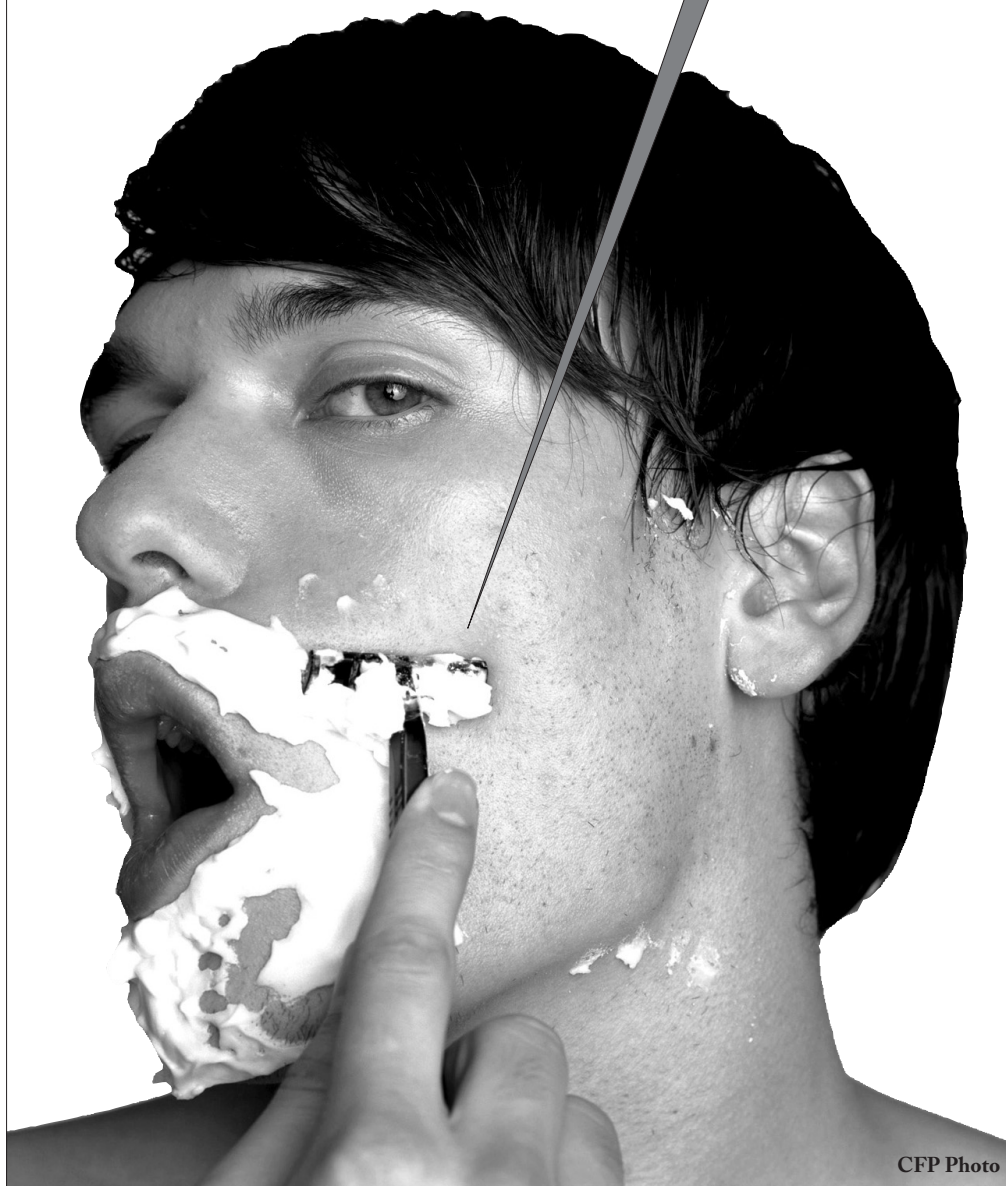
The most interesting part about chacha is that you will get different answers to the same searches, because different

people answer your requests each time. If you tend to like one guide's answers, you can request to have him be your guide in the future. Make sure to give him good marks.

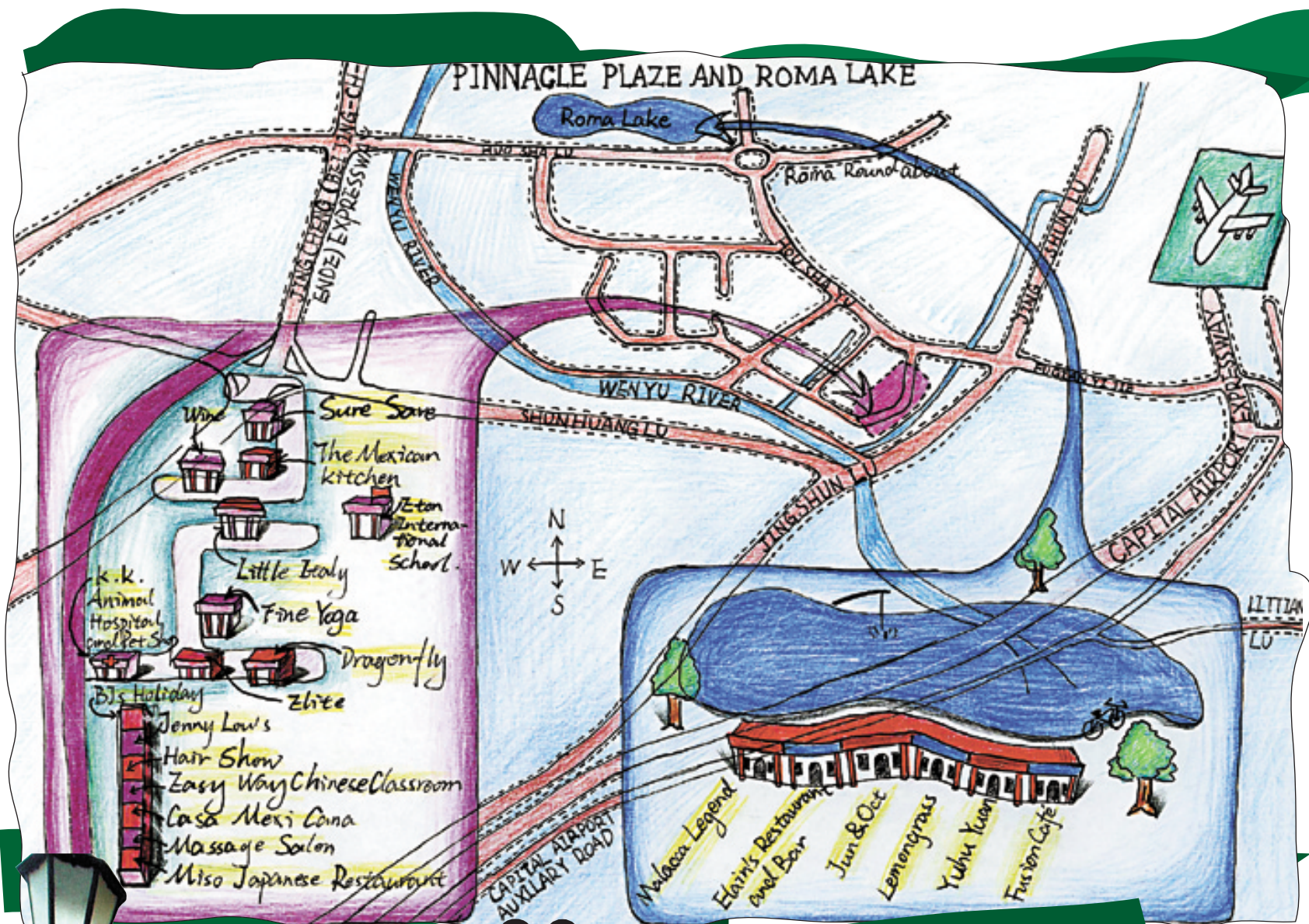
According to the website, some of the guides charge a small amount of money, which is why the site refers to what they do as "Job 2.0."

The Chinese searching engine Baidu (baidu.com) also provides this service, but it refers to the work as "business." You can dial 1161 6690 to have a lady answer any questions you have. The service is currently in beta, and can only be called from 9am to 6pm on working days.

Baidu's human search is a little stupid, because the guide only reads what she finds on Baidu.com. However, it's convenient if you are at a location where you can't get to a computer. The cost is the same as a local call.



CFP Photo



Walking in the backyard

Pinnacle Plaza & Roma Lake

By He Jianwei

Rows of Western-style apartments and international schools are scattered along the bank of the Wenyu River in Houshayu, Shunyi District. Pinnacle Plaza, the town center, lies near the River Garden and Eurovillage.

Entering the plaza is an out-of-culture experience: its buildings are typical of European countryside styles. Life moves at a slower pace, and sunshine spreads over every inch of ground.

The plaza aims to provide every service and venue nearby that residents need: restaurants, cafes and teahouses, clinics and hospitals, grocery stores, bars and clubs, art galleries, hair salons, massage parlors and spas, shops and boutiques, sports and fitness venues and schools.

About five minutes away by car you can reach Roma Lake, one of the latest developments in Houshayu. As many as ten restaurants have opened there last year.

The restaurants are a great place to take in the lake scenery and watch planes lift off and land at Capital International Airport.

Unless you have a car, you're not getting to Pinnacle Plaza or Roma Lake, as no Beijing buses run there. From downtown, follow Jingshun Lu and turn left at the intersection with Houshayu Lu. Follow that road and turn left when you hit a T-junction. Pinnacle Plaza is on the left.

If you go farther down Houshayu Lu, you will find the Roma Roundabout. The lake is 100 meters north on the left.

Continued on page 17 ...

Savor Japanese food in Miso



... continued from page 16

By Dennis He

Next to the Casa Mexicana, you'll find a quiet Japanese restaurant called Miso. The name itself is a traditional Japanese food produced by fermenting rice, barley or soybeans.

Miso commonly accompanies rice in the soup: the rice or miso soup pairing is considered a fundamental unit of Japanese cuisine, and is eaten daily by much of the Japanese population.

The restaurant opened four years ago and can accommodate 50 guests. The interior decor is typical Japanese with wooden desks, kimono-clad dolls and Japanese paintings.

The background music is slow and

sweet. If you are a fan of Teresa Teng, you will enjoy similar music style here.

Tappanyaki is a popular dish in the restaurant. People can choose meat or vegetable Tappanyaki.

Miso also provides a lunch and dinner set. "Most of our guests are local upper-class. They want meals that are substantial and nutritious," Rainbow Lee, the restaurant manager, said.

The restaurant has signed a contract with a Japanese company to provide the lunch for its workers. As well as rice and a main course, the meal includes appetizers, steamed egg custard, salad, miso soup, pickles and fruit.

According to the guests, a different meal for children under the age ten is

available, which includes a free selection of two main courses.

"Children at this age find it difficult to finish two main courses, so they can select two half-dishes that equal one. They can choose salmon Temmanyaki, bean curd skin sushi, cucumber sushi, bacon or egg sushi," she said.

As for the elderly, greaseless food is offered. "We know our customers well. Some of our elderly customers are diabetic, so we remind our chef not to put sugar in their meals," she said.

Where: Pinnacle Plaza, next to the golf club, Shunyi

Open: 10am-9:30pm

Tel: 8046 5677

Cost: 100 yuan per person

Pumping out traditional brick-oven pies

By Dennis He

Little Italy was still closed when we entered, but the manager came out to welcome us. There is a small wood-burning stove next to the cash register. The restaurant sells not just its food, but the opportunity to watch master pizza chefs at work.

In the corner, there is a small play area enclosed in soundproof glass. A wine cabinet is near the east wall displaying an impressive collection of various vintages, and the west wall is a non-smoking area with four free tables.

Little Italy opened in September 2003 and specializes in osso buco, seafood ravioli and brick oven

pizzas, Antoinette Martin, the general manager, said.

The restaurant also serves steaks, which have several sauce options available. For the Osso Buco Alla Milanese, a traditional braised veal shank served with mushroom risotto, guests can choose from black pepper sauce, red wine sauce, mushroom sauce or green pepper sauce.

An extensive wine list accompanies all the Italian dishes, and red wine Montepulciano D'Abruzzo and white wine Castel Vecchio Bianco are house favorites.

Specials are regularly available, like 60 yuan for three courses at

lunch, as well as regular favorites like pastas and pizzas.

The walls are plastered with paintings of Italian scenery like Venetian canals and Florentine castles.

As lunch hour began, the cook stoked the oven to prepare for mid-day pizza rush. The three shovels next to the oven were used to insert and remove pies, and the smallest is used for removing ash.

The restaurant offers free delivery to many areas in Shunyi District.

Where: 813 Pinnacle Plaza, Shunyi

Open: 11:30-10pm

Tel: 8046 4679

Cost: 60 yuan per person



Photos by Gavin T

Cactus in the Casa Mexicana

By Dennis He

Entering this Mexican restaurant, the images of cactus, not only on canvas, but in pots, greet the customers. The restaurant has been open since January 1 with room to accommodate about 120 guests.

In the long rectangular house, the curtains and tablecloths are in bright colors. The guests can also relax on the balcony near a green garden. With Mexican music in the background, the customers can enjoy a Southern ambience.

Casa Mexicana boasts about its special drinks. Li Caixia, the manager of the Casa Mexicana, recommends two in her restaurant: Casa Margarita and Mexican Coffee.

The Casa Margarita comes

frozen or on the rocks together with lime, orange, strawberry or mango. It's a mixture of a shot of tequila and white rum.

If the guests are non-drinkers, they can savor the Mexican coffee. "First, we make a mixture of chocolate syrup, milk and cinnamon. Then we grind in the Italian lavazza. Finally, we pour the concoction into the coffee," she said.

The chef in her restaurant is Chinese with four-years experience making Mexican food in France. When he came home, he was specialized in Mexican food in a number of hotels.

The guests, especially foreigners guests living around the area, sent gifts related to Mexico to the restaurant, after the restaurant

posted a notice requesting decoration ideas.

"The foreign guests are so kind and they have brought a lot of gifts to our restaurant. Some are pictures of cactus; some are toys for our children's room where the guests' kids can play with them," she said.

"One of our customers noticed there were so many images of cactus here, that, to be different, she brought a straw-woven cactus as a gift," she added.

Where: Pinnacle Plaza, 100m past Jenny Lou's, Shunyi

Open: 10am-9:30pm

Tel: 8046 5166

Cost: 100 yuan per person

Continued on page 18 ...



Montessori education in Eton

... continued from page 17

By He Jianwei

Parents seeking an English-speaking Montessori environment for their children may want to check out the new Eton International School.

The school's campus is housed in a new, dome-shaped building east of Pinnacle Plaza with a large garden. Of all the capital's kindergartens, Eton's Pinnacle Plaza campus has the largest outdoor green space dedicated to student use. Classes are offered for international program students and bilingual program students age one to six.

Eton is open to international chil-

dren age one through nine. The school offers a flexible weekly schedule of full and half day programs, and mixed age group classes allow the child to share his or her learning experience and benefit from everyone around.

The school employs the Montessori method, which is interactive and stimulating, and promotes individual growth to heighten an interest in math, language, culture, the arts and science. Extracurricular programs take children out to the soccer fields, swimming pools and playgrounds.

"Each child is an individual who progresses at his or her own pace, and who learns in concert

with his or her own natural development," Sarah Ma, director of School Affairs, said.

Eton allows the child to learn through hands-on experience in a safe, nurturing environment. "We encourage the child to make choices, take risks and embrace challenges that will lead to future academic success," Ma said.

The school has outdoor and indoor play areas, spacious classrooms and extensive libraries.

Eton hosts regular school visits and parent participation programs.

Where: Pinnacle Plaza, Shunyi

Tel: 8046 5338

Website: etonkids.com

Malacca taste near the lake

By He Jianwei

The cozy Malacca-style restaurant, Malacca Legend, is one of the first restaurants along Roma Lake, where guests can take in the scenery.

The family cafe features wood panel walls, tropical ambiance and friendly folks. Malaysian food is served here. The owner, James Ong, opened the restaurant last year.

The origins of the diverse gastronomic heritage can be traced back to the second half of the 15th century and the trading port of Malacca. Even then, Malacca already had a multi-ethnic population, with traders coming from China, India, Arabia and other countries in Southeast Asia.

These strangers settled here and their blended delicacies, especially spices used in a cosmic array of food that has come to be known all over the world as Malaysian food.

"Our menu offers a variety of choices; you will be delighted, especially if you love spicy food but we also offer non-spicy dishes, vegetarian dishes and a selection

of BBQ dishes at our BBQ corner," Ong said.

The meals are prepared with homemade spices and condiments, which are special combinations of lemongrass, garlic, tamarind, ginger, turmeric leaf, chili, red chili peppers and many other Malaysian ingredients.

Hainanese Chicken Rice is one of the specialties. This is a Chinese rice dish, most commonly associated with Malaysian or Singaporean cuisine, although it is also commonly sold in neighbouring Thailand, and found in Hainan, China itself. So-called due to its roots in Hainan cuisine and its adoption by the Hainanese overseas Chinese population in the Nanyang area, the version found in Malaysia and Singapore combines elements of Hainanese and Cantonese cuisines along with culinary preferences from the Southeast Asian region.

In Malacca, the chicken is served with rice balls rather than a bowl of rice, commonly known as chicken rice balls. The rice is shaped into golf ball-sized orbs and served alongside chopped chicken.

This dish is eaten the same way as the regular version where you try to get an equal portion of chicken, rice, soy and chili condiment into each mouthful.

In addition to the food here, there is a good wine selection. Both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages are available.

The Mojito cocktail is the best-selling alcoholic beverage in summer, containing spearmint, rum, sugar, traditional sugar cane juice, lime and carbonated water. Its combination of sweetness and refreshing citrus and spearmint flavors is intended to mask the potent kick of the rum, and has made this beverage a popular summer drink.

If you want to enjoy the scenery of the lake, you can sit on the balcony. Ong says that now is a good time to enjoy the moonlit scenery with the coming autumn days.

Where: Along the bank of Roma Lake, Houshayu Town, Shunyi

Open: 11am-10pm

Tel: 8049 8902

Cost: 80 yuan per person



Chili and peppers in the Mexican Kitchen

By He Jianwei

On the northeast of Little Italy is The Mexican Kitchen, a cantina that serves up generous portions of flavorful Mexican and Latin American-inspired cuisine.

The restaurant is full of cheery décor—the walls are painted in bright colors which match the staff's friendly demeanor.

The paintings on the walls teach about the different varieties of Mexican chili, and the bottles on the cashier's counter show different kinds of chili and peppers. Some are red and mouth-watering, and others are green and

alluring. If you love spicy food, you can try different kinds of chilis and other peppers here.

The restaurant opened in March 2006 and features a solid lineup of burritos, tacos and fajitas, which you can wash down with margaritas and sangria.

It also serves combination plates. Guests who order a taco trio, which includes one red corn taco pastor (pork), one blue corn chicken taco and one yellow corn steak taco with an assortment of homemade salsas, and together with rice and beans.

After the courses, loosen your belt to

make room for Mexican fried ice cream, which is vanilla ice cream sandwiched between two flour tortillas, deep fried, then sprinkled with cinnamon and sugar and finished with whipped cream.

The restaurant also has a play corner and a children's menu.

The Kitchen offers free delivery to the surrounding area.

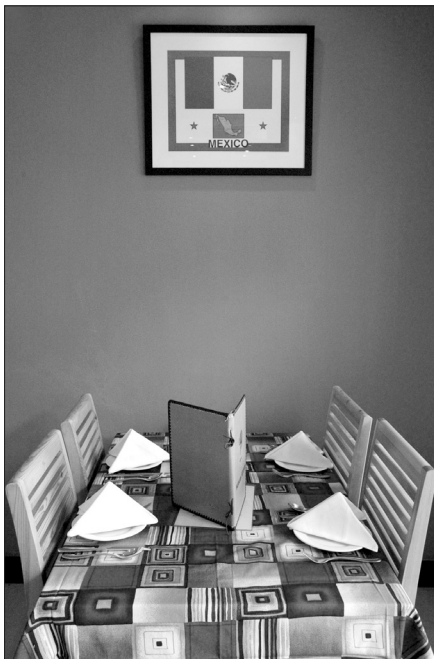
Where: 705 Pinnacle Plaza, Shunyi

Open: 11am-9pm

Tel: 8046 4558

Cost: 60 yuan per person

Continued on page 19 ...



Photos by Gavin T

... continued from page 18

Art

Wins Arts & Framing Gallery

It provides framing services for artists' works.
Where: 702 Pinnacle Plaza, Shunyi
Open: 10am-7pm
Tel: 8046 5266

Pets

KK Animal Hospital and Pet Shop

Treatment, surgery, vaccinations and other veterinary services for your pets. They offer kenneling, grooming, obedience training and a wide range of pet care products.
Where: 801-802 Pinnacle Plaza, Shunyi
Open: 9am-7pm
Tel: 8046 2358

School

Easy Way Chinese Classroom

Tailor-made Mandarin courses at your Shunyi home or on site. Levels range from "survial" and conversational to business.
Where: Pinnacle Plaza, next to Jenny Lou's shop, Shunyi
Tel: 8046 2536
Cost: 100 yuan for one-hour individual classes, 50 yuan per

class for two-hour group classes
Website: johnson.net.cn
Eton International School
The school employs the Montessori method to heighten children's interests in math, language, culture, arts and sciences.
Where: Pinnacle Plaza, Shunyi
Tel: 8046 5338
Website: etonkids.com

Agent

BJS Holiday
BJS Holiday offers great holiday packages.
Where: 800 Pinnacle Plaza, Shunyi
Tel: 8610 5166
Elite Beijing
It's an agency providing real estate services in the area.
Where: 804 Pinnacle Plaza, Shunyi
Tel: 8046 1139

Convenient store

Jenny Lou's shop
In addition to Western cuts of meat, imported cheeses, pasta, fresh herbs, dry and canned goods, aisles of wine, charcoal briquette and DVDs, the shop offers made-to-order cakes and provides gardening and house-sitting services.
Where: Pinnacle Plaza, Shunyi
Open: 7:30am-10pm
Tel: 8046 2316
Sure Save Supermarket
You'll find the usual imported food, booze and cheese but the shelves are filled with rarer products, including Nonghyup products from Korea, pappadums, tamarind paste and tikka roti spice mix from India, knoedel mix specialty, Diamant bread flour, gourmet herring and real raspberry jam from Germany.
Where: 608 Pinnacle Plaza, Shunyi
Open: 8am-10pm
Tel: 8046 4363

Beauty salon

Beijing Yoga
Specializes in traditional Ashtanga Yoga, with instructors trained in Mysore, Southern India. They also offer Hot Yoga based on the Bikram method as well as Kid's Yoga.
Where: 806 Pinnacle Plaza, Shunyi
Open: 9am-9pm
Tel: 8046 4033
Dragonfly
This tastefully appointed "therapeutic retreat" offers a range of soothing massages including Chinese, Japanese Shiatsu and Oriental foot massages. Other services include manicures, pedicures, waxing and more.
Where: 888 Pinnacle Plaza, Shunyi
Open: 9am-midnight

Tel: 8046 6682
Hair Show
A full range of hair and skin care is offered at competitive prices. The DVD players and kiddie cars make this a good place to bring the little ones for haircuts.
Where: The south of Pinnacle Plaza, next to Jenny Lou's, Shunyi
Open: 9:30am-10pm
Tel: 8046 3168
Massage Salon
Expect moderate prices and limited frills in this salon which offers shampoos and cuts, perms, manicures, pedicures and facials.
Where: left side Miso Japanese restaurant, Pinnacle Plaza, Shunyi
Open: 9am-midnight
Tel: 8046 2395

Restaurant

Casa Mexicana
This establishment seeks to lure families in with its playroom featuring kiddie cartoons on TV and typical Mexican fare.
Where: Pinnacle Plaza, 100m past Jenny Lou's, Shunyi
Open: 10am-9:30pm
Tel: 8046 5166
Cost: 100 yuan per person
Elain's Restaruant
Elaine's quaint little garden supplies the raw materials for generous portions of Chinese vegetarian fare. The imitation meat dishes are popular with both vegetarian and non-vegetarian diners alike.
Where: On the bank of Roma Lake, 100 meters north of Roma Roundabout, Houshayu, Shunyi
Open: 11am-10pm
Tel: 8048 5088
Fusion Cafe
The owner of this fashionable eatery is an enterprising textile factory owner from Taiwan who has combined her love of textile designs into a combination Vietnamese and Chinese restaurant and in-store silk boutique. The menu includes grilled chicken with coconut and lemongrass, spicy and sour pan-fried tilapia and stir-fried asparagus with sesame and Japanese bonito.

Where: South of Roma Lake, Houshayu, Shunyi
Open: 10am-10pm
Tel: 8049 8699
Jun & Oct
The converted lakeside courtyard residence offers dishes prepared from fresh and wild local produce, with a focus on Sichuan specialties.
Where: 5 Luoma Dajie, Roma Lake, Houshayu, Shunyi
Open: 9am-10pm
Tel: 8049 5667
Lemongrass
This restaurant serves Thai and Taiwanese dishes plus hot pot in a quaint room with amber tablecloths.
Where: south of Roma Lake, Houshayu, Shunyi
Open: 9:30am-9:30pm
Tel: 8049 2016
Little Italy
It has been given a facelift new wine cabinet, bathroom, color scheme and the play area has been enclosed in soundproof glass and the menu has been expanded.
Where: 813 Pinnacle Plaza, Shunyi
Open: 11:30-10pm
Tel: 8046 4680
Cost: 60 yuan per person
Malacca Legend
This expansive and beautifully-decorated lakeside Malaysian restaurant boasts serene water views and zesty Southeast

Asian cuisine.
Where: Along the bank of Roma Lake, Houshayu Town, Shunyi
Open: 11am-10pm
Tel: 8049 8902
Cost: 80 yuan per person
Miso Japanese Restaurant
Visit Miso for fresh sashimi and sushi rolls as well as excellent teppanyaki and Japanese hot pot.
Where: Pinnacle Plaza, next to the golf club, Shunyi
Open: 10am-9:30pm
Tel: 8046 5677
Cost: 100 yuan per person
The Mexican Kitchen
This cantina serves generous portions of flavorful Tex-Mex faves such as burritos, fajitas and tacos.
Where: 705 Pinnacle Plaza, Shunyi
Open: 11am-9pm
Tel: 8046 4558
Cost: 60 yuan per person
Yuhu Yuan
This place features burning coals, ready to roast chicken, lamb or beef on an open-air grill in this outdoorsy-style barbecue restaurant.
Where: south bank of Roma Lake, Houshayu, Shunyi
Open: 9am-9pm
Tel: 8049 1295
(By He Jianwei)



Photo by Gavin T

BEIJING TODAY Beijing Today is available at all locations listed above.



Lazienki Park

The heart of Europe, Warsaw



The Royal Castle

By Ju Xin

In the spring of 1928, Austrian writer, Stefan Zweig, made a journey through Poland. "In Warsaw, there was nothing to indicate that, on four occasions, victorious and vanquished armies had marched through the city," he wrote.

Warsaw can be experienced as a rapidly developing modern city – a bustling capital centered around

Marshal Street and Solidarity Avenue, where Poles come from far and wide to make their fortune.

On the other hand, Warsaw is an immensely-moving place that connects with the past. Its rebuilt city center is at its most compelling in the Old Town with its proud Royal Castle. The former Jewish ghetto is also a stark reminder of the unforgiving hand of history.

Old Town

The Old Town is, by far, the most attractive area of Warsaw. It stretches between Wybrzeze Gdanskie Street, Grodzka, Mostowa and Powale Street. All major attractions are near Rynek Starego Miasta – Market Square.

Warsaw Old Town was established in the thirteenth century. It impresses tourists with its quaint, cobbled streets and unique old architecture. The heart of the area is the Old Town Market Square, with its traditional Polish restaurants, cafes and shops. When the weather is warm, the square becomes filled with cafe tables, various traders and street artists.

Surrounding streets feature old architecture such as City Walls, The Barbican and St John's Cathedral. Old Town is ideal for walks and picnics – the whole area is mostly closed to traffic and provides spectacular scenery and unforgettable atmosphere.

The royal castle is a magnificent example of baroque style – it was built in the fourteenth century. In 1569, King Zygmunt III Waza moved his residence to the Royal Castle when Warsaw became the capital of Poland. Between 1598 and 1619, the king had the Royal Castle restyled into a polygon by Italian architects. In the eighteenth century, King Augustus III renovated the East wing to Baroque style and King Stanislaw Poniatowski added the Royal library. The Royal castle served as both a residence for the

king, and hosted Sejm sessions, the Polish parliament.

The castle is now a museum featuring housing furniture, famous paintings and other great works of art.

The fascinating interiors of the Royal Castle contain many original furnishings, statues and paintings, including works by Bernardo Bellotto and Marcello Bacciarelli.

Old Town is the best place for walks. Most of the area is closed to traffic and it is a paradise for pedestrians.

Most interesting walks are near the market square and Royal Castle square. There are many narrow, cobbled streets with quaint antique shops, cafes and beautiful old houses. Piwna Street takes you across much of Old Town and passes through multiple tourist attractions such as St Martin's Church or Zapiecek Street. Waski Dunaj Street is known for its unique charm and beauty – you can find many old houses well maintained, the Guild of Leather Crafts Museum, St Anna's House, Broad and Narrow Dunaj Streets and Stone Steps Street.

There are usually lots of artists performing outside in the vicinity of market square and Royal Castle square when the weather is warm. If one tires of walking, there are plenty of carriages in the square.

Getting there: You can take the subway to the Ratusz metro station, then trams number 26, 46, 32, 13 in the "Praga" direction, then bus 175 that goes straight from the airport or tourist line 180.

Palace of Culture and Science

The Palace of Culture and Science – competing with Warsaw Mermaid – is "the tallest" symbol of the capital at 231 meters high: it is also the biggest building in Poland. It was constructed between 1952-1955 and "given" by Stalin as a non-returnable gift of friendship. Designed as social-realistic construction, it is enormously huge. For its construction, 40 million bricks were used. It portrays an example of controversial style in architecture. Some regard it as a masterpiece, whereas others view it as a "junk," especially older people who lived through the communist era and dislike the memory of what the building stands for. There are many debates about what to do with it. Older people, like my Polish high school teacher, really hate it and would love to see it destroyed.



Palace of Culture and Science

Most people say it is a horrible building, and this writer agrees. It is far from the best present Stalin could have given, but it tells a lot about the city's history. Remember: history brings many things, both welcomed and not. The 30th floor offers a panoramic view of Warsaw.

Getting there: The Palace is just a few steps outside the railway station. You can take any bus to the railway station.

New Town

New Town began to develop in the fourteenth century. In 1408, Duke Janusz the Elder granted Nowe Miasto a separate status from Old Town. New Town had its own council, Town Hall and several churches and monasteries. In 1791, it was incorporated into Warsaw. During World War II, New Town suffered severe damage, but was restored to its original glamor.

New Town is bordered by Krasinskiego Street in the North, Długa Street to the South, Adama Mickiewicza Street in the West and Wybrzeze Gdanskie Street in the East. It is

a pedestrian's haven, as most of New Town is closed to traffic.

Most major attractions other than Citadel museum are located around Długa Street. Citadel museum is located on Skazancow Street near Wybrzeze Gdanskie Street.

Citadel is a fortress built by the Russians during the nineteenth century when Poland was partitioned into three countries: Russia, Germany and Poland, with Warsaw being occupied by Russia.

The Citadel was not used to defend the city from possible attacks, but was to intimidate the inhabitants. Citizens of Warsaw had to absorb the huge

Lazienki Park

Lazienki Park is one of the most beautiful parts of Warsaw – one of the most favorite places for walks for Varsovians and tourists. This romantic, landscaped park includes the Palace on the Water, together with various other palaces, pavilions and an amphitheater.

The highlight of Lazienki Park is the Palace on the Water. It is one of the finest examples of Neo-Classical architecture in Poland. King Stanislaw August Poniatowski converted the seventeenth Century Pavilion into a Palace. During World War II, the Nazis wanted to blow up the Palace, but they only set fire to it when they ran out of time. The Palace has been fully restored.

Lazienki Park is a good place for a walk. There are lots of monuments, lakes, little bridges, as well as, an odium where piano concerts are held. It's a great place for children too – they can chase peacocks and feed squirrels. Lazienki Park is not only a summertime destination but a lovely spot year round.

Getting there: To get to Lazienki Park, you have to take buses 116, 166, 180 or 195. The buses stop directly opposite the main entrance to the park at the "Lazienki Krolewskie" stop.

cost of building the fortress while Russian officials made fortunes on investing money in development.

The museum traces Polish history from the eighteenth century onward and has many interesting exhibits.

The monument "Memorial to the Heroes of the Warsaw Uprising" is located on Plac Krasinski near Długa Street. The Warsaw Uprising at the end of World War II saw one of the biggest bloodsheds in all of the War. During the uprising, the city was almost leveled.

During the 50th anniversary commemorations of the uprising in 1994, German President Roman Hertzog visited the monument and apologized to the nation for what it had to endure during World War II.

The monument portrays soldiers defending a barricade and others descending into sewers.

Getting there: New Town is mostly closed to traffic. It is best to park on Wybrzeze Gdanskie Street close to Długa Street. Buses 116, 122, 144, 175, 179 and 195 leaving from the center of Warsaw are an excellent route. The Citadel museum is best reached by street cars 2, 12 and 18 getting off at by Gdansk Bridge on Gdanskie Wybrzeze Street.

Continued on page 21...

...continued from page 20

Traveling in Warsaw

Warsaw public transport is very efficient and relatively cheap. Buses and trams go everywhere, and you can also take the subway from the center to the south of the city. There is a bus and tram timetable at every stop, and all stops are named.

There are also route boards inside the buses and trams so you can follow along. Some less used stops are marked "na zadanie" – wave your hand to stop the bus or use a special button above the door if you want to get off.

Daytime buses, trams and the subway operate mostly between 4:30am and 11pm. Night buses travel all around the city every 30 minutes and meet at the Central Railway Station every 15 and 45 minutes after the full hour. Daytime buses run every 5-15 minutes on weekdays and every 10-20 minutes on weekends.

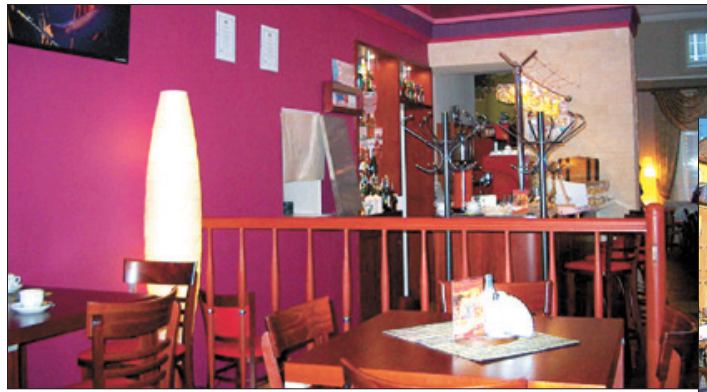
Tickets can be purchased at numerous kiosks. You can also buy a single ride ticket from a driver for a small surcharge. A map of Warsaw is displayed at many bus stops.

There are numerous kinds of bus tickets – single rides cost 240 PLN (night buses: 7.20), but most people use 24-hour, 72-hour, weekly, weekend, 30 day and 90 day tickets.

For tourists, the 24-hour, 72-hour or weekly tickets are recommended. There are two kinds of tickets in each of the above categories: ones within the city limits and ones for the full network. Tickets within the city limits are cheaper. The prices are shown at each bus stop and inside all means of transport, as well as on the internet (ztm.waw.pl). ISIC card holders are entitled to a 50 percent discount.



Zlote Tarasy



Restaurant Przystanek Muranow



A small plaza commonly seen in Warsaw

Dining in Warsaw

Polish cuisine is wonderful. As the Polish would say, "Jedzcie, pijcie i popuszczajcie pasa," or, "Eat, drink and loosen your belt."

Wry fellows used to say that, if you wanted to eat well in Warsaw, you had to head for an embassy, Ferrero Rocher style, and hob nob with the diplomatic set. Gone are the days when the capital was a gastronomic desert. Today, new places are springing up to offer mushrooms in autumn, and variety has obliterated the dreary old eastern-bloc stereotypes.

Dumplings, known in Polish as "Pierogi," are often the first stop on the journey through Polish cuisine and the first thing you'll recognize on the menu. Many restaurants will translate this as filled dumplings or ravioli, but neither term really does the Pierogi justice. Though almost every Eastern European lays their claim to being the inventor of Pierogi, I don't recommend you discuss this after a few vodkas – it's an argument you're unlikely to win. Pierogi are crescent-shaped parcels filled with any one of a number of tasty fillings. They can be crispy (smazone) or boiled (gotowane) doubling your number of choices.

Restaurant Przystanek Muranow has some of the best in town. Expect the regular dumpling varieties – meat, cabbage, fruit and cheese – but the list doesn't stop there! If you can wrap it in dough, they'll sell it. You can also try some with rabbit meat, plums or chocolate for dessert. Take your pick from the bistro area, classic dining room or, if the weather's good, take to the outdoors and enjoy it all in the restaurant's garden. If your stay in Warsaw has not yet yielded the perfect Pierogi, this may just be the place to find it. Don't miss a chance to sample many varieties.

Where: ul. Andersa 13.

Tel: +48-22-887 8996



The Little Mermaid

Shopping in Warsaw

As Poland's capital, Warsaw has attracted all the big international names in shopping, keen to take part in the country's economic resurgence. As a business hub, Warsaw is also an oasis for travelers looking for smart clothes at reasonable prices. Still, the city continues to retain its old world charm, and there are plenty of smaller stores tucked into the back streets with treasures waiting to be discovered.

Zlote Tarasy means trade, entertainment, services and offices, right in the heart of Warsaw. This modern, multi-functional complex stands between Zlota Street, Emilia Plater Street, the Central Railway Station and Jana Pawla II Ave. It is easily accessible by any public transport method or by rail. Guests can drive from the international airport and reach the center in 20 minutes.

You can do much more than just shop in Zlote Tarasy – you can meet your friends, go to a concert or just stop for a few moments to rest from the bustle of the city. Clients can choose in the commercial and entertainment section from over 200 stores, several dozen restaurants and cafes, music clubs and a fitness club. Two modern office buildings are provided to office tenants – an oval Lumen with three separate entrances, and a representative office tower entered from Emilia Plater Street.

Where: Zlote Tarasy Ul. Zlota 59
00-120 Warszawa

Open: Daily 10am-10pm (10am-8pm on Sundays)

Tel: +48-22-222 0000

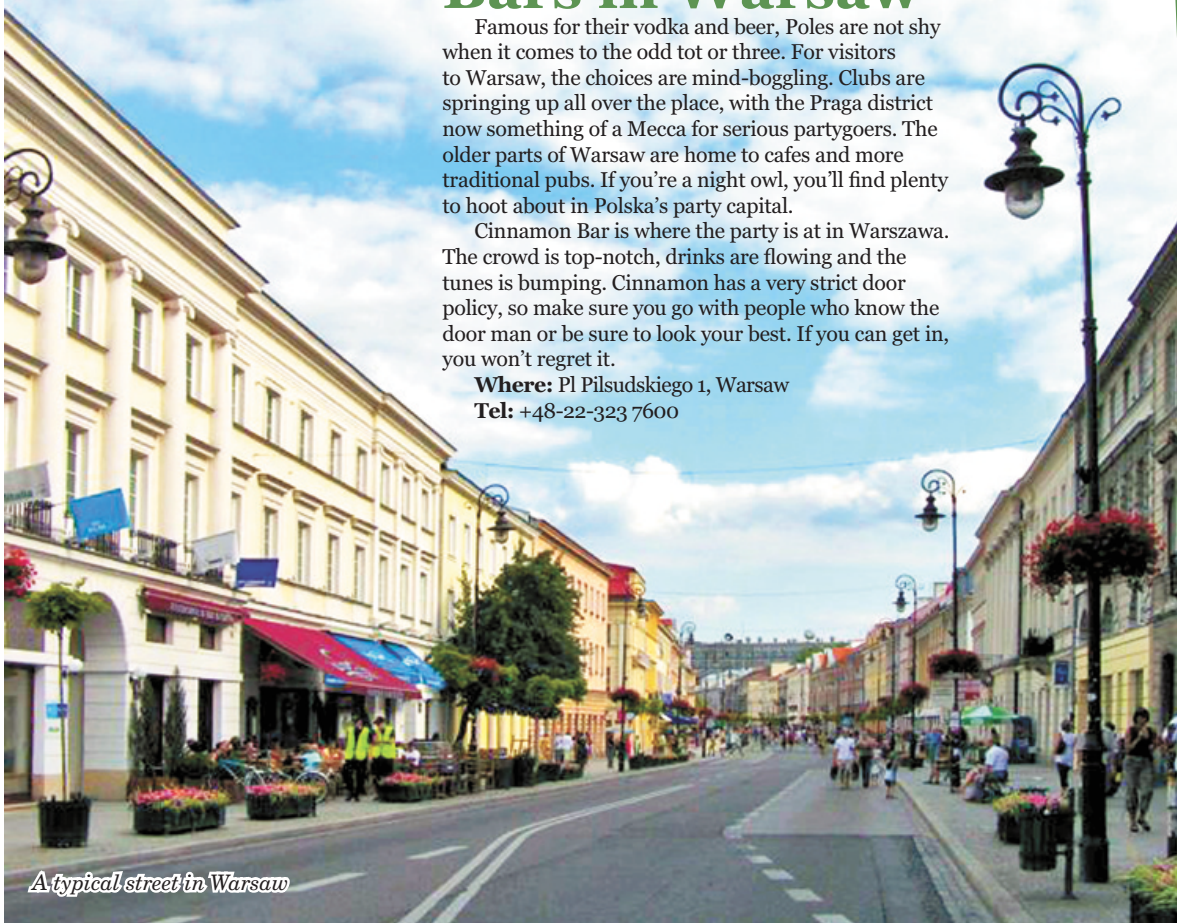
Bars in Warsaw

Famous for their vodka and beer, Poles are not shy when it comes to the odd tot or three. For visitors to Warsaw, the choices are mind-boggling. Clubs are springing up all over the place, with the Praga district now something of a Mecca for serious partygoers. The older parts of Warsaw are home to cafes and more traditional pubs. If you're a night owl, you'll find plenty to hoot about in Polska's party capital.

Cinnamon Bar is where the party is at in Warszawa. The crowd is top-notch, drinks are flowing and the tunes is bumping. Cinnamon has a very strict door policy, so make sure you go with people who know the door man or be sure to look your best. If you can get in, you won't regret it.

Where: Pl Pilsudskiego 1, Warsaw

Tel: +48-22-323 7600



A typical street in Warsaw

2007 China Open Carnival

Wonderful, Amazing Tennis Festival





Miss World



Yummy Cuisine



PTR Tennis Training



Musical Festival of Vigor



China Open Cheering Squad



PBI Tennis Show



Interesting Games



PBI Tennis Show



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Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Strike a pose and become a superstar!

By Gan Tian

I have always been confused by the phrase "strike a pose." I thought it meant you have to hit something because of the verb "strike." I was finally enlightened when my friend, Mike D, explained.

Mike D is a photographer. Several weeks ago I was invited to his studio to experience a shooting for some fashion magazine. I was certainly attracted by the elegant models and the colorful jargon they used while shooting. I felt that I had been dropped onto the sets of *The Devil Wears Prada* or *Ugly Betty*!

When I was talking to Nick, one of the male models, Mike, called him over to explain the

shot, saying, "Nick, come on! It's your blue-striped-jacket show! Stand there! Okay. Now, strike a pose! Yes, ready, go!"

I suddenly figured out what "strike a pose" meant. It was quite obvious. It just means to assume a suitable position, stance or attitude and hold it for a picture to be taken. The phrase is commonly used in photography or on movie shoots.

"So, why do you often say 'strike a pose' to a model?" I asked Mike, "Isn't the very word 'pose' enough to express the idea?"

"If we just say 'pose,' it is only one sound. In the fashion circle, one sound is not enough! We have to be very detailed and strong in communicating

the language and direction, especially if you are a famous photographer, stylist or designer, like me," Mike said. To be honest, when he mentioned that he belonged to this "fashion circle," I really wanted to punch him.

My favorite entertainer, Madonna, has a famous song called "Vogue." In the opening lyrics, she repeatedly says "Strike a pose" and then sings, "When all else fails and you long to be something better than what you are today." Yes, that's the true meaning of vogue, and that's the spirit behind "striking a pose." So why don't you cheer up and find beauty within yourself?

Strike a pose and become a superstar!

CFP/Photo

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.



Photo by Liu Chenlu

Oriental-fashion driving school

By Derrick Sobodash

Jokes about local drivers may be in bad taste given *Beijing Today's* audience, but one has to wonder what style of driving they teach at the Beijing Oriental Fashion Automobile Driver School.

Perhaps it's how to swerve in and out of lanes, cause traffic jams and yell about how every other driver is a *sha bi*. If that's the case, this morning's taxi driver was a graduate.

This ad was stuck in one of those glowing subway boxes out near the Pingguoyuan station, and according to what little English they felt like throwing on the sign, "With the qualification of training the international friends."

It's difficult to guess why that sentence begins with "With," as there was no English preceding it. Apparently the "international friends" don't need to know about any of the "cutting edge" training their school provides.

What is an "international friend" anyway? It sounds better than the usual "foreign friend" phrase that is tossed around, but come on, aren't we talking about foreigners? There is nothing wrong with being a foreigner, or an alien as the Chongwen police call me. An "illegal alien" is another matter, and tacking "friend" onto the end doesn't make it better.

No foreigner would ever look at two advertisements and decide which to go to because one called him a "foreigner" and one called him an "international friend." In fact, this foreigner would pick the one that called him a "foreigner," because it sounds like that company speaks better English.

Going back to the actual Chinglish aspect of this sign, this company should really rename itself "Beijing Oriental Driving School." There is no need to have an "Automobile" in there, unless you need to differentiate your company from the Beijing Oriental Bus Driving School or Beijing Oriental Lawnmower Driving School, neither of which are cutting into the expat market.

Also, why would one care if the school is "qualified" to train "international friends"? Any school that has someone who speaks the same language as the foreigner would be qualified. In fact, any company putting out an English advertisement is probably "qualified." Does the company mean it is "certified" or has some government permission?

Make this a little more colloquial and change the line to, "We will train foreigners," just like all those stores in the US that advertise, "Se habla Español."

By Shida Zhu

1. The fair will show Chinese brands as well as bringing international brands

In writing English, you have to be constantly aware of the grammatical function of each word and the sentence structure. The fair will show Chinese brands and it will bring international brands to it. Now, you notice that the verb "show" and the verb "bring" are on an even par. You cannot turn "bring" into a gerund. The sentence should read: "The fair will show Chinese brands as well as bring international brands."

2. There don't have to be winners or losers.

It is only people who may "not do" something. For instance, you don't have to go to the fair. If "there" serves as the subject, you may not use the verbal form "don't." The idea should be: "There will not necessarily be winners or losers."

3. I have some glasses I recommend you wear.

First of all, the sentence structure of this sentence is poor in that it is not idiomatic. The proper English way of expressing this idea may be "I have some glasses I want you to wear." So, you may see the missing of the infinitive "to" before "wear" is unforivable.

Blacklist

Blacklist has something new this issue. We invited our professor Shida Zhu and Canadian copy editor Joe Edwards to point out the mistakes within the same mistakes, so that you can see different points of view on one mistake, both academically and functionally. Remember, further responses can go to gantian@ynet.com.

By Joe Edwards (Canadian writer)

1. The fair will show Chinese brands as well as bringing international brands.

When writing English, be constantly alert to the grammatical function of each word and the sentence structure. In this particular sentence, turning the verb "bring" into gerund form, "bringing," creates incorrect sentence structure. The word, "bringing," should be the same grammatical structure as the verb, "show." The sentence should read, "The fair will show Chinese brands as well as bring international brands."

2. There don't have to be winners or losers.

If the word, "there" is the subject of your sentence, then using "don't" is incorrect. Only humans may "not do" something so, "there" is inappropriate here. A better option would be: "There will not necessarily be winners or losers."

3. I have some glasses I recommend you wear.

The sentence structure in this example is poor due to the absence of one simple word. That word being, "to." To correct the mistake, the sentence should read as follows, "I have some glasses I recommend you to wear." In this sentence, not using "to" before the verb, "wear" is very bad English.



SPORTS ARENA

WORLD CUP RUGBY HEADQUARTERS

"HOME BREW SPECIALS"

CHAO YANG PARK EAST GUAN HU GARDEN TOWER #1

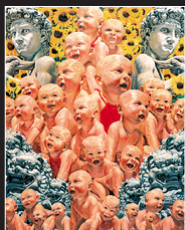
朝阳公园桥北路北顺国际大厦写字楼 | 号首层

59283045 / 65361691 / 13901087774

Friday, August 31

Exhibition

New Wave



The exhibition lists the works of the top Chinese Art Prize (CPA) finalists from the past two years, including Zhang Jie, Feng Dakang, Liu Ye, Zhang Jingli and Zhang Zhihe.

Where: Art Scene Beijing, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm, until September 21
Admission: Free
Tel: 6431 6962

Expression of Current Living State – Ha Shiyou's Itching Series

Ha Shiyou uses a technique of scratching people to demonstrate his metaphor for the current living state which this sensation mirrors: the more one scratches, the more it itches (See

the portrait right).

Where: Artist Village Gallery, Songzhuang, Tongzhou
When: Call for appointment, until September 30
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6959 8343, 139 0124 4283

Beyond Painting – Works by Zhong Biao

Where: Xin Dong Cheng Space for Contemporary Art I & III, Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-5pm, until October 31
Admission: Free
Tel: 5202 3868

Group Exhibition



Where: First Sound Gallery, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 9:30am-6:30pm, until September 28
Admission: Free
Tel: 6431 2501



Saturday, September 1

Exhibition

Endless of Heart – Zhang Zhen Solo Exhibition



Where: New Millennium Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-7pm, until September 25
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 4122

Music

Rock Music Party



Where: New Get Luck Bar (Haoyun), A1 Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang
When: 9pm
Admission: 40yuan
Tel: 8448 3335

Made in Ningxia

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, inside the drive-in movie theater park, No 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: 9pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8196 4820

Outdoor Huitengxile Inner Mongolia Grassland Tour

Where: To locate the less spoiled and tourist-friendly grasslands. It also offers other locales like the Yellow Blossom Valley, Great Mosque and the Frontier Street.



When: Depart from Beijing Airport 7:20am on September 1 and return to Beijing at 10:10pm on September 2.
Cost: 2,600 yuan (Extra 150 yuan for single room supplement)
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

Sunday, September 2

Exhibition

The Great Ming Dynasty – Wang Lifeng's Exhibition



Wang Lifeng has added new dimension and sensory ambience to his Great Ming Dynasty series by incorporating *mo*, or Chinese ink.

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower,

Chongwenmen, Chongwen
When: Daily 10am-5pm, until September 29
Admission: Free
Tel: 6525 1005, 135 2265 2053

Beyond Language – China, Japan, Korea Multimedia Exhibition

Where: Soka Art Center, B-103, Sky & Sea Business Plaza, Dongcheng
When: Tue-Sun 10am-9pm, until September 30
Admission: Free
Tel: 8401 5810

Box Space, Space Box –

Ma Qiusha's Photographs

Where: Taikang Top Spaces 798 Hall, Chaoyang
When: Call for appointment, until September 29
Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 8443, 138 0132 6510

Movie

La marche de l'empereur & Pelagos : la marée noire

The life cycle of the Emperor penguin is revealed in this wonderful documentary.
Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartments, Gongti Xi



Lu, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627
(By Qiu Jiaoning)

Stage in September

Music

Rock'n'roll Banquet – 2007 Beijing Popular Music Festival

Who: The Lord Beats an Entertainer, Cui Jian, Suede, Nine Inch Nails and The Ramones.

Where: Chaoyang Park, No 1 Nongzhan Nan Lu, Chaoyang
When: September 8-9
Admission: 200-380 yuan

Swing and Jazz

Who: Savoy Dance Orchestra
Where: The Star Live, No 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng
When: 8:30pm, September 13

Opening Concert of the Tenth Peking Special Works – International Music Section: Beethovens' Works

Who: Lang Lang and German National Orchestra, Berlin
Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, September 21
Admission: 180-980 yuan

Dance

Multi-media modern dance The Goddess of Mercy

Who: Beijing Modern Dance Company
Where: Peking University Hall, inside Peking University, Haidian
When: 7:30pm, September 13-14
Admission: 60-880 yuan (20yuan for student)

Pina Bausch and Tanztheater Wuppertal live in Beijing

Who: Pina Bausch and Tanztheater Wuppertal
Where: Tianqiao Theatre, No 21 Tianqiao Beiwei Lu, Chongwen
When: 7:30pm, September 20-23
Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Dancing Queen

Who: Spirit of the Dance Productions (Ireland)
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm, September 21-22
Admission: 180-1,000 yuan

Drama

Chinese Musical Butterflies

This is a tragedy similar to *Tragic World*. It tells a tale of life and death intertwined with true love between a man and two women. A flowing and lively story, graceful and fluent music, poetic and psychedelic stage language and a show-stopping climax make this a brand new twist on the musical genre. Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai, a couple from classic legend, are reborn in the story of "becoming a Butterfly." The show tells a Chinese story using western music and dance forms.

Who: Siqin Gaowa, Shi Ke, Wang Lihong and Li Wen
Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, September 11-20
Admission: 180-1,200 yuan
(By Qiu Jiaoning)